

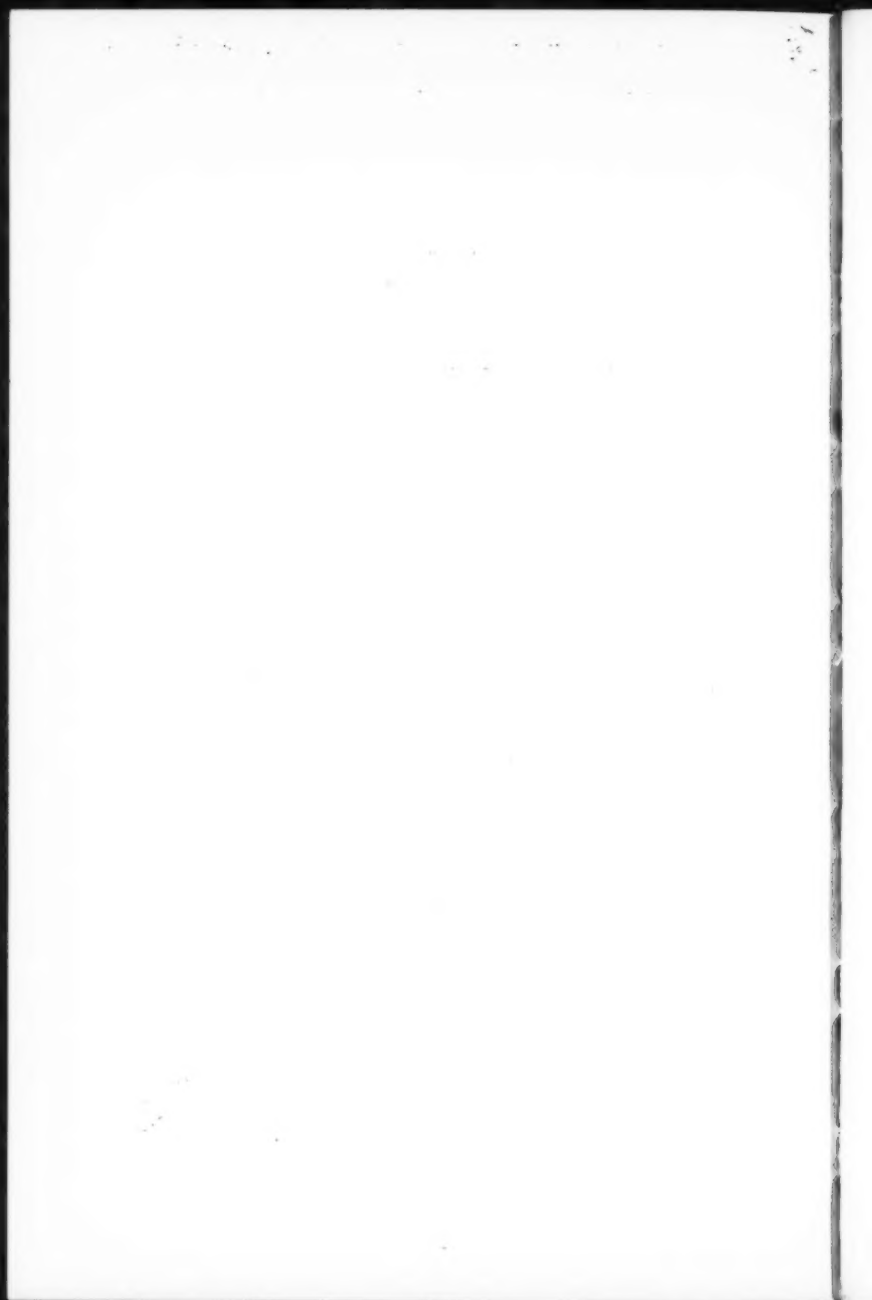


CONSUMER REPORTS / PART 2 / DECEMBER 1959

# SUMMARY AND INDEX

RESULTS OF TESTS BY CONSUMERS UNION  
WITH GENERAL BUYING ADVICE, INCLUDING  
RATINGS BY NAME OF SOME 1200 BRANDS





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# SUMMARY AND INDEX

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# INTRODUCTION

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**T**his **Summary and Index** includes not only a concise summation of every product report published in **Consumer Reports** during 1959, but also every Rating of every product established in the course of the year's testing. All material is indexed alphabetically, with cross-references to facilitate use. Also included are condensations of all other reports which were published during the year.

Additionally, a number of earlier major reports—selected because the information provided still is generally valid and of widespread interest—have been included. These summaries of 1958 reports, which incorporate virtually all Ratings, appear in a special section beginning on page 59.

To get full use from this guide, please note the following points:

## Currency of Ratings

**A**ll Ratings are reprinted in the order in which they originally were published, along with the prices current at that time. Since it was physically impossible to check the currency of every item and every list-price for this **Summary and Index**, and in view of the frequency of model changes, some brands or models obviously no longer will be available, and in some instances also the list-prices have changed. Nonetheless, the majority of the items tested still should be available at retail. Further, where a model no longer is in production, it may be found at a really attractive discount; or, in certain



circumstances, the information given will have particular significance in terms of shopping for products at second-hand (cameras, for example). In any event, since most Ratings are listed in order of quality, price considerations will not affect a brand's position relative to other brands.

**"Best Buy"** designations are given to Acceptable products which, because of relatively high quality at relatively low price, should give greater return per dollar than other Acceptable products. Note, however, that discount houses and other outlets offer price reductions on many widely sold brands. You will find it advantageous to shop around, whenever possible, to compare prices, store policy on returns, warranties, and servicing. Do not expect discounts on price-fixed items.

**Best Buy  
Ratings**

**B**rands are check-rated (✓) by CU when the test samples prove to be of high overall quality and significantly superior to those of other brands tested. Several brands within a project may be check-rated when, in the judgment of CU's technical staff, they are about equal in quality or so little different that you should not be deterred from buying any one of them if it is less expensive, more readily available, better looking, or otherwise more appealing to you than the others. All Ratings should be applied only to the specific models actually reported on by CU.

**Check  
Ratings**

**W**here the Canadian price of a particular brand appeared in the original report, it is reprinted in this guide—italicized, in parentheses—immediately after the U.S. price. Omission of a Canadian price in a report in which other Canadian prices appear indicates that the brand or model was not distributed in Canada when the report was published. Complete omission of Cana-

**Canadian  
Prices**

dian prices in a report indicates that CU did not check Canadian availability and prices in that instance.

#### Page Numbers

Each summarized report bears, following the index title, the number of the page on which it originally appeared in **Consumer Reports**. More than one page number indicates more than one published reference to the report. A page number carrying a subsequent correction to the report is noted by the letter "C" and the page number in parentheses (any corrections made during the year are reflected in the summaries as given here). Page numbers in **Consumer Reports** run consecutively through the calendar year: January, 1-48; February, 49-96; March, 97-152; April, 153-216; May, 217-272; June, 273-336; July, 337-392; August, 393-448; September, 449-504; October, 505-552; November, 553-620; December, 621-688.

#### Cross References

Most summary entries are cross-referenced for your convenience under a number of broad categories. For example, the entry "Air Conditioners" also is cross-indexed under "Appliances."

#### Back Issues

Finally, this reminder: CU strongly recommends that, wherever circumstances permit, the reader refer to the original complete report to obtain the most effective and efficient buying guidance. Certainly this should be done always where a reader is contemplating a purchase involving a major expenditure and where individual considerations (e.g., convenience factors) play a major part in making a final selection. To that end, CU urges all readers to save their issues of **Consumer Reports**. If, for one reason or another, a back issue is not at hand, a trip to your nearest library's periodical file would be very worthwhile; or failing that, CU has a limited number of back issues for sale. (To order, see the boxes inside titled "Back Copies" or the Cumulative Index appearing in every issue of the **Reports**.)

# SUMMARY AND INDEX

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## A

### ADVERTISING

see Consumers Union: advertising use of CU material, policy against; General Motors, antitrust action against; Otogen "wonder drug"; Packaging practices, deceptive; Reducing aids, drugs and devices

### AIR CONDITIONERS, ROOM

282

Twelve models tested (largely 1958 models, due to the large inventory carried over by the industry for sale in 1959), priced from \$164.95 plus shipping to \$260.33. Tested at controlled outside temperatures of 85°F, 95°F, and 115°F, with varying relative humidities. Tested for ability to cool, dehumidify, ventilate and exhaust, and maintain relatively uniform temperature distribution; temperature and humidity fluctuation due to cycling; ability to dispose of condensate; and ability to operate at 70°F without excessive icing. Convenience of controls and grille adjustment, noisiness, and hazards also evaluated. Report explained two preliminary steps to buying a room air conditioner: determining how much cooling capacity is needed (measured in British thermal units per hour) and choosing a model with capacity close to this need. Advice on installation also was given. *Except as noted, listed in order of estimated overall quality. Prices were average pre-season quotations in the New York City area.*

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Judged approximately equal in quality and listed alphabetically: Admiral "Imperial" 100L12, \$225; Chrysler Airtemp "Custom Royal" 1600-21-39, \$181.83; Feeders 812 SS-2, \$260.33; Frigidaire "Imperial" A1-100M-91, \$229; Philco A1082-2, \$197. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** Amana 100A2N, \$206; RCA Whirlpool "Deluxe" D-8100-2, \$201.30; Frigidaire "Deluxe" AD-100M-81, \$218.67; Carrier 51A54-115, \$232.33. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** General Electric "Thinline" 1R462 RA1-16, \$209.67; Westinghouse "Mobilaire" (a relatively small, lightweight model), \$176.26. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR TO POOR:** Sears "Mira-Cold" Cat. No. 85710, \$164.95 plus shipping.

### AIR COOLERS, PORTABLE

297

General buying guidance on portable air coolers (often priced about \$35-\$45); what they are (basically, a fan that draws air through a wet pad), their advantages (evaporation can lower temperature of air circulating through the cooler by as much as 10°; filtering air this way may help allergy sufferers), their disadvantages (cooling is slight when humidity is high; a cooler operates poorly in a closed-up room), and CU's recommendations (a cooler may have merit in a hot, dry climate, but a fan is better in damper air).

### AMPLIFYING SYSTEMS, STEREOPHONIC

325, 354 (C: 501)

Forty-nine models of high-fidelity components tested—19 stereo combination amplifiers (\$99.95 to \$219.95), nine stereo pre-amplifiers (\$56.95 plus shipping to \$144.80), 12 power amplifiers (\$49.59 to \$139.50), two second-channel amplifiers (\$99.95 to \$109.50), seven stereo adapter units (\$9.95 plus shipping to \$45). Tested for use in a high-fidelity stereophonic system. Report discussed function of each component for three types of consumers: those starting a stereo system

from scratch, those who already own a monophonic pre-amplifier and a power amplifier, and those who own a combination pre-amplifier-amplifier. Controls (volume, tone, etc.) were explained. Report included instructions on figuring how powerful an amplifier is needed, and on matching to the amplifying system the stereo pickups reported on by CU in March 1959 (see PICKUPS AND PICKUP ARMS, STEREOGRAPHIC). Listed by component types; within types, except as noted, by groups in order of estimated overall quality.

#### STEREO COMBINATION-AMPLIFIERS

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓Sherwood S-5000, \$189.50 (\$265.50). **ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD** (in alphabetical order): ✓Bogen DB-230A, \$189.50 (\$261.50); ✓Scott 299, \$199.95 (\$269.35). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD** (in alphabetical order): Bogen DB-212, \$119.95 (\$165.50); Fisher X-101, \$189.50 (\$267.50); GE MS-2000, \$139.95 (\$163); GE MS-4000, \$179.95 (\$213); Harman-Kardon A-250, \$179.95 (\$249.95); Pilot 245A, \$199.50 (\$278.75); Stromberg-Carlson ASR-433, \$129.95 (\$159.95). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD** (in alphabetical order): Bell Carillon 6060, \$219.95 (\$324.95); Bell 3030, \$169.95 (\$250); Eico HF-81, \$109.95 (\$154.95); Grommes 40-PG, \$167.45 (\$253.75); Harman-Kardon A-224, \$99.95 (\$149.95); Knight KN-734, \$129.50. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Grommes 24-PG, \$99.95 (\$157.85) (inadequate tone-control action); Neutomb 3D12, \$179.50 (\$197.45) (excessive hum on phono channels); Sargent-Raymont SR-17-17, \$189.60 (\$265) (excessive hum on phono channels).

#### STEREO PRE-AMPLIFIERS

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD** ✓Dynakit Stereo Pre-Amplifier, fully wired \$144.80 (\$202.80), as kit \$88.80 (\$124.40); ✓Pilot SP-210, \$89.50 (\$124). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** Eico HF-85, fully wired \$64.95 (\$91.90), as kit \$39.95 (\$56.50); Heathkit SP-2, kit only, \$56.95 plus shipping (\$79.95 plus shipping). **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Arkay SP-6, fully wired \$62.95 (\$84.75), as kit \$39.95 (\$53.80) (high-noise-level); Grommes 214, \$87.95 (\$140.95) (high distortion); Knight-Kit 83 YX-776, kit only, \$62.50 plus shipping (\$99.50 plus shipping) (high hum on phono channels); Peri PPC-300, \$79.95 (\$105.40) (high noise-level), Tech-Master P41, \$59.95 (\$69.95) (high distortion).

#### POWER AMPLIFIERS

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** (in order of maximum "nominal" power output): ✓Dynakit Mark III, fully wired \$99.95 (\$139.95), as kit \$79.95 (\$111.95); ✓Heathkit W7M, kit only \$54.95 plus shipping (\$75.95 plus shipping); ✓Dynakit Mark II, \$69.75 (\$97.65); ✓Dynakit Stereo 70, fully wired \$129.95 (\$181.95), as kit \$99.95 (\$139.95); ✓Pilot SA-260, \$139.50 (\$194.95); ✓Eico HF-35, fully wired \$79.95 (\$103), as kit \$47.95 (\$67.80); ✓Eico HF-30, fully wired \$62.95 (\$88.95), as kit \$39.95 (\$56.50); ✓Grommes 240, \$109.95 (\$171.95). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Harman-Kardon HK-250, \$99.95 (\$146); Grommes 221A, \$69.95 (\$89.65); Harman-Kardon HK-20, \$59.95 (\$87.50). **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Tech-Master, TM-15A, kit only \$49.59 (\$59.59) (high distortion).

#### SECOND-CHANNEL AMPLIFIERS

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** Sherwood S-4000, \$109.50 (\$153.50). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Harman-Kardon AX-20, \$99.95 (\$146).

#### STEREO ADAPTER UNITS

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓Marantz Model 6, \$45 (\$63); Dynakit DSC-1, fully wired \$18.95 (\$26.55), as kit \$12.95 (\$18.15); Scott 135, \$24.59 (\$33.95). **ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** Bogen STA-1, \$16 (\$22). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Knight-Kit 83 Y 778, kit only \$9.95 plus shipping; Knight KN-750, \$14.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:**

## Can't find a product?

*If you can't locate a report on a given product by name in this guide, try the category to which it belongs—for example, APPLIANCES, AUTOMOBILES AND AUTOMOTIVES, CLOTHING, COOLING THE HOME. If a report was published during the year, a reference to it will appear in the listing under the broad category to which it belongs.*

**Realistic Stereo Master Cat. No. R-72436, \$11.95 plus shipping (poor high-frequency response).**

## **ANTIBIOTIC DRUGS**

**222**

Short report on FTC hearings following price-fixing charges against large drug manufacturers. For background, see November 1958 **REPORTS**, "The High Cost of Rx Drugs."

## **APPLIANCES**

see Air conditioners, room; Air coolers, portable; Buffer, electric, Buff-ette; Coffee-makers, automatic; Dehumidifiers; Dishwashers, automatic; Fans, attic; Fans, electric, portable; Floor polisher, Mini-Shine; Food mixers, electric; Food slicer, Dial-O-Matic; Food-waste disposers; Frankfurter cooker, Dog-O-Matic; Home cooling; Household products; Ovens, table-top; Refrigerators, electric and gas; Sanders, electric, portable; Shavers, battery-operated, men's; Shavers, electric, men's; Utensils (griddles and saucepans), master-heat-control; Vacuum cleaners; Vacuum cleaners, power brush for; Vibrators, do-it-yourself; Washer, floor, Hoover; Washing machines, automatic

## **ARCHERY EQUIPMENT FOR THE BEGINNER**

**425**

General buying guidance for the neophyte. Best bow: one not too hard to pull (35-40-lb. draw for men, 20-25-lb. draw for women and older children), a laminated (wood-and-glass fiber) construction, modified reflex design, no shorter than about 5'4"; try several before buying. Best arrows: rigid enough for the bow's pull, matched in length and weight, with careful feathering (slightly spiraled turkey feathers are good). Also discussed: targets and such accessories as glove, arm-guard, quiver, extra bow-string. CU's key conclusion: an adequate beginner's set can be assembled for about \$40.

## **ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION**

**438**

CU noted that both the American Red Cross and the National Research Council now rate mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing the best non-mechanical technique of artificial respiration for adults as well as children. Report illustrated how to use this technique with both adults and children.

## **AUTOMOBILES AND AUTOMOTIVE**

see Automobiles, "compact"; Automobiles, U.S., for 1959; Automobiles, U.S., for 1960; Car distributor rotor, Solar Volt; "Low-priced" Sixes for 1959; "Low-priced" V-8s for 1959; Lower-medium-priced V-8s for 1959; Rambler American and Austin A55 for 1959; Rambler Six for 1959; Renault Dauphine and Simca Elysee; Renault 4CV and NSU Prinz; Small cars for 1959; Spark plugs, Fire Injector; Station wagons, U.S., for 1959; Studebaker Lark Six for 1959; Thunderbird and Mercury for 1959; Tires, automobile

## **AUTOMOBILES, "COMPACT"**

**537**

Advance discussion of the 1960 *Corvair* (General Motors), *Falcon* (Ford), and *Valiant* (Chrysler) in relation to the "compact" *Rambler* (American Motors) and *Lark* (Studebaker), the small imported cars, and the future of the automobile business. Key points: Compact cars came into being because Detroit had to meet the foreign-car challenge, not because it was dissatisfied with its own established trend toward greater size, power and cost; the compacts are not really small, but rather a compromise between small and the Detroit standard; as such, they should appeal to many buyers.

## **AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1959**

**160**

Forty-one models (16 makes) rated in four price groups, with detailed mechanical specifications and body measurements of each. Report explained how CU tests cars and defined auto components and characteristics the informed buyer should know about. Comparisons of 1959 and 1958 models were made in various categories; prices (generally up), engines (generally bigger, but a few modified toward economy), automatic transmissions (increasingly popular), safety (few real advances), optional extras. Report also discussed some "special" U. S. cars (*Rambler American Super*, *Ford Thunderbird*, *Studebaker Hawk*, *Chevrolet Corvette*, *Chrysler 300-E*), and compared U.S. cars sold in

Canada with the domestic product. Except as noted, listed within groups in order of estimated overall quality for family use. Price is for factory delivery of the four-door sedan model (or hardtop, if no sedan is offered) with least expensive version of automatic transmission included (except for Group 1). Prices shown for cars in Groups 2, 3, and 4 include automatic transmission and power steering.

#### ACCEPTABLE

**GROUP 1, "LOW-PRICED"** (\$2175 to \$2684 with manual transmission; least expensive automatic transmission, about \$190 to \$230 extra). Sixes (\$2175 to \$2600): Rambler Super, \$2268; **BEST BUY:** Ford Fairlane, \$2411; Chevrolet Bel Air, \$2440; Plymouth Belvedere, \$2440; Edsel Ranger, \$2600; Dodge Coronet, \$2587; Studebaker Lark Regal, \$2175. Eights (\$2310 to \$2684): Rambler Ambassador Super, \$2587; Ford Fairlane, \$2529; Chevrolet Bel Air, \$2558; Edsel Ranger, \$2684; Plymouth Belvedere, \$2559; Rambler Rebel Super, \$2398; Studebaker Lark Regal, \$2310. **GROUP 2, LOWER-MEDIUM-PRICED** (\$2988 to \$3465). Oldsmobile Dynamic 88, \$3241; Dodge Royal, \$3253; DeSoto Firesweep, \$3199; Pontiac Star Chief, \$3344; Pontiac Catalina, \$3043; Edsel Corsair, \$3084; Dodge Coronet, \$2988; Buick Invicta, \$3465; Mercury Montclair, \$3416; Buick Le Sabre, \$3132; Mercury Monterey, \$3166. **GROUP 3, UPPER-MEDIUM-PRICED** (\$3517 to \$4424). First seven cars judged approximately equal in overall quality and listed alphabetically: Chrysler New Yorker, \$4424; Chrysler Saratoga, \$3968; Chrysler Windsor, \$3539; De Soto Firedome, \$3567; De Soto Firelite, \$3869; Oldsmobile Super 88, \$3517. Oldsmobile 98, \$3890. In order of estimated overall quality: Pontiac Bonneville, \$3672; Buick Electra 225, \$4300; Buick Electra, \$3586; Mercury Park Lane, \$4031. **GROUP 4, HIGH-PRICED** (\$5016 to \$6845). Cadillac 60 Special, \$6233; Cadillac 62, \$5080; Imperial Custom, \$5016; Continental Mark IV, \$6845; Lincoln, \$5090.

#### AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1960

657

Preliminary report on 1960 U.S. cars. CU felt that this year the industry had called at least a temporary halt to its "horsepower race" and noted two important new trends: toward 1) "compact"-size cars and 2) quieter, smoother operation. The only wholly new engine in a full-sized 1960 car (each of the three new compacts has one) is that used in Plymouth and Dart Sixes. Ram-induction manifolding, which increases power through a certain range of engine speeds, is a noteworthy option on some Chrysler Corp. cars. Other changes—in styling, suspensions, transmissions—are relatively minor among full-size cars. Although more—and bigger—compacts are promised, CU felt 1960 could be called the year Detroit "paused for breath"; predicted the full-size cars would undergo much greater change next year.

## B

#### BABY POWDERS

34

Twelve brands tested, including five labeled suitable for both adult and baby use; for comparison, 10 other products—seven brands of adult body powders, U.S.P. talc, U.S.P. cornstarch, and a leading kitchen cornstarch—also were tested. Judged on four functional factors (absorbency balance, ease of application, adherence, feel) and four esthetic factors (appearance on the skin, color, uniformity, odor). Listed in order of estimated overall quality. Asterisk (\*) denotes products tested for comparison.

**ACCEPTABLE:** Rexall Baby Talc, 89¢ for 16 oz.; \*Djer Kiss Imported Talcum, 73¢ for 10 oz.; Cashmere Bouquet Talcum Powder, 74¢ for 10 oz.; Johnson's Baby Powder, 65¢ for 12½ oz.; \*U.S.P. Talc (Merck and Co.), 88¢ for 16 oz.; Mennen New Baby Powder, 54¢ for 9 oz.; \*Revlon Intimate Talc, \$1.49 for 4 oz.; \*Yardley English Lavender Talc Powder, \$1.38 for 8 oz.; \*Coty L'Origan Talc, \$1.10 for 3.7 oz.; Johnson's Medicated Powder, 94¢ for 9 oz.; \*Mavis Imported Talcum, 74¢ for 10 oz.; Z.B.T. Baby Powder, 51¢ for 10 oz.; Ammens Medicated Powder, 59¢ for 5½ oz.; \*Charles of the Ritz Directoire Talc, \$3.85 for 7 oz.; \*Pond's Talc, 54¢ for 6½ oz.; Silicare Medicated Baby Powder, 85¢ for 9 oz.; \*Argo Corn Starch, 15¢ for 16 oz.; \*U.S.P. Corn Starch (Amend Drug. & Chem. Co.), 71¢ for 16 oz.; Merck Zinc Stearate Baby Powder, 69¢ for 1 oz.; Desitin Medicinal and Nursery Powder, 75¢ for 2½ oz.; Mexsana Medicated Powder, \$1.29 for 12½ oz.; Diaparene Chloride Baby Powder, 49¢ for 3½ oz.

## BAGS, PLASTIC, DANGER OF

399

At the height of the national scare over the death by suffocation of more than 50 children trapped under thin, transparent plastic sheeting, a CU subscriber sent in a bag of such plastic, printed over with a false face and a Union soldier's costume. At the same time, the bag bore a printed warning against letting small children play with it. CU contacted the dry cleaner who had delivered it, the National Institute of Dry Cleaning, the U.S. Dept. of Health, and the Society of the Plastics Industry (which had been trying to alert parents to the perils of such bags). In reporting this action, CU urged readers to seek local regulations against distribution of any bag made of plastic sheeting and designed to suggest use as a toy.

## BELFAST "SELF-IRONING" FABRIC

158

CU tested *Belfast*, a cotton fabric with wash-and-wear properties based on a chemical change in the fibers rather than the usual addition of a resin (see WASH-AND-WEAR FABRICS). *Belfast* cottons could be put through a complete machine-washing cycle including final spin, thus would dry faster on the line than drip-dry fabrics that should not be spun or wrung. CU bought seven dresses made of *Belfast* cotton, machine-washed them repeatedly as per hang-tag instructions, and judged their appearance. Conclusion: these particular *Belfast*-fabric garments were no better, or worse, than other no-iron cottons; the major trouble was puckered seams, but the excellent crease resistance of the fabrics when wet made them easier to launder than drip-dry fabrics. According to the manufacturer, the *Belfast* process has been modified since CU's tests.

## BLUE JEANS, BOYS'

471

Sixteen models tested, priced from \$1.49 to \$3.98. All Western-cut. Worn 15 weeks by boys six to twelve years of age, and examined during and after the test period for abrasive wear (mostly at knees and seat), raveling and fraying, seam failure, holes, colorfastness, and shrinkage (fit remained satisfactory in all models). Resistance to knee- and seat-wear received the greatest weight in the Ratings. Listed in order of estimated overall quality. Except for mail-order brands, prices are averages of those paid by CU's shoppers.

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Penney's Foremost Model 15-1101, 13¾ oz., \$2.27, **BEST BUY;** ✓Billy the Kid Saf-T-Nee Model 12381, 10 oz., \$2.96. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Wards "101", Cat. No. 33A37, 10 oz., \$1.94 plus shipping; Wards "101", Cat. No. 33A34, 13¾ oz., \$2.47 plus shipping; Sears Circle S Ranch, Cat. No. 9373, 10 oz., \$1.67 plus shipping; Levi's Waist Overalls, Model 503Z, 13¾ oz., \$3.98; Penney's Big Mac, Model 15-1201, 10 oz., \$1.49; Lee Riders, Model 111-B-Y, 13¾ oz., \$3.88; Blue-Bell Dub-L-Nee, Model 18DKZ, 10 oz., \$2.59; Blue Bell Wrangler, Model 11BZ, 13¾ oz., \$2.30; Levi's Western Jeans, Model 603, 10 oz., \$2.92; Sears "Roebucks", Cat. No. 9350, 13¾ oz., \$2.83 plus shipping; Dickies, Model 324, 10 oz., \$2.99. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Farah of Texas, Model 123, 13¾ oz., \$3; Anvil Bulldoggers, Model 121Z, 10 oz., \$2.46; Dickies, Model 360, 13¾ oz., \$2.99.

## BREAKFAST DRINK, TANG

241

CU asked a panel to taste-test *Tang*, a synthetic powder made chiefly of sugar, flavorings, and vitamins, which resembles orange juice when mixed with water. Reactions ranged from "unpleasantly synthetic" to "much like the real thing." CU found *Tang* convenient, inexpensive to use, rich in Vitamin C—in short, a kind of palatable Vitamin C pill; but commented: it is decidedly preferable to get your vitamins as they occur naturally in the foods you eat.

## BUFFER, ELECTRIC, BUFF-ETTE

53

CU tested the well-advertised *Howard Buff-ette* (\$19.95), a lightweight, hand-held electric buffer. It proved able to buff furniture or shoes lightly, but on

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heavier jobs (e.g., polishing the car) it lacked power, tended to stall, became almost too hot to hold.



## CAMERAS, 8MM MOVIE, AUTO-EXPOSURE

253 (C:341)

Six models tested, priced from \$89.50 to \$149.95. All had the auto-exposure feature whereby light, entering the camera in front, strikes a photo-electric cell which in turn activates a mechanism to provide automatic setting of the diaphragm. All models tested for versatility and convenience of use, and for optical performance. Also tested: the 13mm, f/1.8 *Elgeet Synchronex 8* auto-exposure lens, \$59.95 (\$79.95) which can convert almost any 8mm movie camera to auto-exposure. CU judged it fair on all performance counts. Listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓ *Revere Eye-Matic Model CA-1*, \$139.50 (\$179.95). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** *DeJur Electra*, \$149.95 (\$184.50); *Wollensak Eye-Matic C-47*, \$89.50 (\$118.50); *Bell and Howell Design 390*, \$99.95 (\$119.95). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** *Keystone KA-1D*, \$129.50 (\$159.50); *Eumig Unilectra*, \$99.95.

## CAMERAS, STILL, AUTO-EXPOSURE

363

Three non-comparable models tested in different price ranges. All shared the "electric-eye" feature of the auto-exposure 8mm movie cameras tested by CU (above). All were tested for optical performance (none was judged better than fair-to-good in this criterion), mechanical operation, and convenience features. Overall, CU questioned the value of auto-exposure in a still camera and felt the models tested were out of line, in terms of price, with comparable or better models lacking auto-exposure. All three models were rated Acceptable; they are listed here in order of increasing price and only for purposes of identification: *Bell & Howell Infallible*, \$39.95 (\$59.95); *Revere Eye-Matic EE 127*, \$139.50 (\$189.50); *Agfa Automatic 66*, \$237 (\$245).

## CAMERAS, SUB-MINIATURE

648

Nine models tested, priced from \$29.50 plus shipping to \$139.50. Most were no bigger than a pack of cigarettes. All were tested for optical and mechanical performance; convenience features and operational shortcomings were noted. Report pointed out that one advantage of these cameras—small size—also is a drawback: enlarging their relatively tiny negatives requires considerable magnification, with consequent enlargement of any flaws on the film. Except as noted, listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE:** *Minox IIIS*, \$139.50 (\$139.50). First two models, basically similar, in order of increasing price: *Sears Tower Cat. No. 016*, \$29.50 plus shipping. **BEST BUY:** *Mamiya Super 16 Model III*, \$39.95 (\$39.95). *MEC-16*, \$49.50; *Yashica Y16*, \$34.95 (\$34.95); *Minolta 16*, \$39.95 (\$39.95); *Ricoh Golden 16*, \$39.50 (\$39.95); *Stylophot*, \$32.45. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** *Mamiya Automatic 16*, \$69.95 (\$69.95) (grossly inaccurate built-in exposure meter).

## CAMERAS, 35MM (\$90 TO \$190)

24

Eighteen models tested, priced from \$88.50 plus shipping to \$189. Should appeal to the advanced amateur for their relatively fast lenses (generally about f/2), the lens interchangeability offered by many models, and their extra features. Tested primarily for optical and mechanical performance; optical ratings apply only to the lens tested. Except as noted, listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓ *Kodak Retina IIIC*, \$175 with Schneider-Kreuznach Retina-Xenon C f/2.0-50mm lens in between-the-lens Synchron-Compur shutter (\$175); ✓ *Olympus 35-SII 1.8*, \$114.50 with Olympus G. Zuiko f/1.8-42mm lens in between-the-lens Seikosha-MXL shutter (\$114.50). **ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓ *Aires 35 IIIC*, \$110 with H Coral f/1.9-45mm lens in between-the-lens Seikosha-MXL shutter (\$110); ✓ *Voigtlander Vitomatic II*, \$109.50 with Voigtlander Color Skopar f/2.8-50mm lens in behind-the-lens Prontor SLK shutter (\$109.50). First three models following, approximately equal in quality, in order of increasing price: ✓ *Agfa Ambi Silette*, \$109 with Agfa Color Solinar f/2.8-50mm lens in



behind-the-lens Synchro-Compur shutter (\$109.95); ✓ *Argus V-100*, \$119.95 with *Argus Cintagon II f/2.0-48mm* lens in between-the-lens Synchro-Compur shutter (\$119.50); ✓ *Minolta Super "A"*, \$129.50 with *Chiyoko-Super Rokkor f/2.0-50mm* lens in behind-the-lens Seikosha MX shutter (\$129.50). *Diarg IIb*, \$149.50 with *Schneider-Kreuznach Xenon f/2.0-50mm* lens in behind-the-lens Synchro-Compur shutter (\$149.50). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** *Konica IIIA*, \$129.95 with *Konishir-oku Hexanon f/1.8-50mm* lens in between-the-lens Seikosha-MXL shutter (\$129.95). First two models following, approximately equal in quality, in order of increasing price: *Lord-5D*, \$99.50 with *Okaya Optic Highkor f/1.9-40mm* lens in between-the-lens Seikosha-MXL shutter; *Ricoh Five One Nine*, \$99.95 with *Riken Optical Rikenon f/1.9-45mm* lens in between-the-lens Seikosha-MXL shutter (\$99.95 incl. case). *Lordomat C35 Cat. No. 401L (Wards)*, \$127.50 with case plus shipping, with *Leidolf Wetzlar Lordon f/1.9-50mm* lens in behind-the-lens Prontor-SVS shutter (*Lordomat C35*, \$139.50 from *Kingsway Film Equipment, Toronto*). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** First three models following, approximately equal in quality, in order of increasing price: *Topcon 35-L*, \$99.95 with *Tokyo Kogaku Topcor f/2.0-44mm* lens in between-the-lens Seikosha-MXL shutter; *Regula IIIC*, \$119.50 with *Enna Werk München Regula-Ennalyt f/1.9-50mm* lens in behind-the-lens Prontor-SVS shutter (\$119.50); *Sears Tower 45 Cat. No. 045*, \$149.50 plus shipping with *Nippon Kogaku Japan Nikkor-HC f/2.0-50mm* lens with focal-plane shutter (*Simpsons-Sears Tower 45*, \$199.50 incl. shipping). *Mamiya 35 Magazine*, \$89.50 with *Mamiya-Sekor f/2.8-50mm* lens in between-the-lens Seikosha-MXL shutter (\$89.50); *Tanack Type IV S*, \$169.50 with *Tanaka Kogaku Japan Tanar H.C. f/2.0-50mm* lens with focal-plane shutter. **ACCEPTABLE —POOR:** *Braun Pazzette Super III Automatic*, \$189 with *Steinheil München Quinon SLK f/1.9-50mm* lens in behind-the-lens Prontor-SLK shutter.

## CAMERAS, TWIN-LENS REFLEX

644

Fifteen models rated—eleven 6x6cm cameras (priced from \$46.50 to \$249.50), four 4x4cm (\$29.95 to \$99.50). Former included five models check-rated in CU's last tests (July 1958) and still current. All cameras were tested for optical and mechanical performance. Also noted were such special features as LVS (light value system) coupling, ease of using built-in exposure meter (if any), delayed shutter action, multiple exposure and blank frame prevention, and automatic parallax compensation, along with additional convenience features. Note: in automatic models, advancing the film automatically cocks the shutter; in semi-automatic and non-automatic models, the shutter must be cocked separately. Report compared 6x6cm cameras (producing 2¼x2¼ in. exposures) with 4x4cm models (1½x1½ in. exposures); full-size slides made by the former cannot be projected by many current slide projectors, though adapters to give smaller formats available for some camera models; slides using 4x4cm transparencies (*Super-Slides*) fit most slide projectors, but in some cases may give poor brightness or sharpness at the corners; as snapshots, 6x6 exposures require less enlarging than 4x4s do; 4x4 cameras are lighter and less bulky than 6x6s. Listed by types in order of estimated overall quality.

### 6x6 CAMERAS

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** Five models with automatic actions: ✓ *Rolleiflex 3.5 F*, \$249.50 with *Schneider-Kreuznach Xenotar f/3.5-75mm* lens in Synchro-Compur shutter (\$269.50 with *Planar* lens); ✓ *Zeiss Ikonflex Favorit*, \$159 with *Zeiss Tessar f/3.5-75 mm* lens in Synchro-Compur shutter (\$136); ✓ *Rolleiflex 3.5 T*, \$169.50 with *Zeiss Tessar f/3.5-75mm* lens in Synchro-Compur shutter (\$169.50); ✓ *Minolta Autocord*, \$99.50 with *Rokkor f/3.5-75mm* lens in Seikosha-MX shutter (\$99.50); ✓ *Ricohmatic 225*, \$99.95 with *Rikenon f/3.5-80mm* lens in Seikosha SLV shutter (\$124.50). Three models with semi-automatic actions: ✓ *Rolleicord Va*, \$99.50 with *Schneider Xenar f/3.5-75mm* lens in Synchro-Compur shutter (\$119); ✓ *Ricohflex Diacord G*, \$46.50 with *Rikenon f/3.5-80mm* lens in Citizen-MXV shutter (\$56.50) **BEST BUY**; ✓ *Ricohflex Diacord L*, \$65 with the same lens and same optical performance as the *Ricohflex Diacord G* (above) (\$75). **FAIR:** One model with automatic action: *Yashica-Mat-M*, \$75.50 with *Yashinon f/3.5-80mm* lens in Copal MSV shutter (\$85.50). Two models with semi-automatic actions: *Yashica-635*, \$69.95 with *Yashikor f/3.5-80mm* lens in Copal MXV shutter (\$69.95); *Yashica-D*, \$49.95 with *Yashikor f/3.5-80mm* lens in Copal MXV shutter (\$59.95).

### 4x4 CAMERAS

**VERY GOOD:** Two models with automatic actions: ✓ *Rolleiflex 4x4*, \$99.50 with *Schneider-Dreznach Xenar f/3.5-60mm* lens in Synchro-Compur shutter (\$99.50); ✓ *Saavyer's Mark IV*, \$79.50 with *Topcor f/2.8-60mm* lens in Seikosha MXL shutter (\$79.50). **FAIR:** Two non-automatic actions: *Ricoh Super 44*, \$42.50

with Riken Ricoh f/3.5-60 mm lens in Citizen MV shutter (\$49.95); Yashica-44A, \$29.95 with Yashikor f/3.5-60 mm lens in Copal shutter (\$35.95).

## CANCER, CURRENT RESEARCH ON

86

Roundup of information on the status of research into cancer: what it is, what causes it, how to spot it, development of drugs to fight it.

## CAR-DISTRIBUTOR ROTOR, SOLAR VOLT

510

CU tested the *Solar Volt Electronic Super-Charger* (\$7.95 up, depending on car model), a device designed to replace the rotor normally found in a car's distributor. Claimed to use the "millions of volts now wasted by your car," it allegedly would improve any auto's power, miles per gallon, and ability to run on low-test gasoline. CU tested *Solar Volt* rotors against standard rotors on four late-model V-8s, found no difference in performance worth mentioning.

## CARPET SWEEPERS

407

Seventeen models tested, priced from \$4.97 plus shipping to \$17.95. Evaluated on the basis of cleaning ability and convenience of use (ease of emptying, use under low furniture, weight). The two electric sweepers tested surpassed all others in cleaning ability, pushing ease, and ability to clean close to walls; two low-priced models were rated Conditional Best Buys (see Ratings) because they performed well but were relatively difficult to push on deep-pile rugs. Also tested: two miniature "touch-up" sweepers, the \$7.95 *Bissell-ette* (\$8.95) and the \$9.95 *Wagner Fireside* (\$15.50). CU judged the former poor in cleaning ability, the latter even worse. Except as noted, listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** First two models following, which appeared identical, in order of increasing price: *Wards Signature Cat. No. 270D*, \$13.95 plus shipping; *Davis Electro-Sweep*, \$15.95. First two models following, approximately equal in quality, in order of increasing price: *Sears Maid of Honor Best Quality Cat. No. 6604*, \$14.95 plus shipping; *Wagner Genie*, \$15.95 (\$25.95). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** First four models following, approximately equal in quality, in order of increasing price: *Wagner Aladdin*, \$7.95 (\$16.95); *Sears Maid of Honor Good Quality Cat. No. 6603*, \$8.87 plus shipping (*Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 6600*, \$11.95 incl. shipping); *Wagner Rug Aid*, \$12.95 (\$19.95); *Wagner Roller-matic*, \$17.95 (\$27.95). First three models following, judged not quite the equal of preceding units, in order of increasing price: *Sears Maid of Honor Thrift Sweeper Cat. No. 6616*, \$4.97 plus shipping (*Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 6616*, \$7.95 incl. shipping). **CONDITIONAL BEST BUYS:** *Sweep-Rite De Luxe Comb-O-Matic*, \$5.98, and *Wards Vanity Cat. No. 273*, \$8.75 plus shipping. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** First four models following, approximately equal in quality, in order of increasing price: *Wards Cat. No. 268*, \$5.79 plus shipping; *Bissell Breeze*, \$12.95; *Bissell Capri*, \$14.95 (\$15.95); *Bissell Grand Rapids*, \$16.95 (\$17.95). **ACCEPTABLE—POOR:** First two models following, approximately equal in quality, in order of increasing price: *Bissell Reliance*, \$9.95 (\$10.95); *Bissell Mercury*, \$10.95.

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## CASHMERE

122

Traditionally, cashmere is a soft, rich fabric of goat's down—which, unless properly processed, also may contain long, coarse guard-hairs from the original coat. In commenting on ads for "bargain" cashmere coats and sweaters that proved in fact to be rough and sleazy-looking, CU noted that such garments often contained too many guard-hairs. Reason: in a period of falling prices for raw cashmere, some mills were failing to remove the guard hairs but offering their fabric as "100 per cent cashmere." Two problems thus ensued: how to define the dividing line between guard-hair and down, and how much guard-hair to allow in a "cashmere" fabric. CU also urged proper labeling of fabrics containing other than new cashmere. Pending action by the industry and the Federal Government, CU urged consumers to protect themselves by being wary of "100 per cent cashmere" labels and "bargain" prices.

## CIGARETTE SMOKING, PRODUCTS TO CURB

236

Six products investigated. Two pills, *Fumex* and *Bantron*, claimed to help the confirmed smoker break the cigarette habit; CU felt there was no convincing evidence to support either product. A ventilator, *Ventair*, punched tiny holes in a cigarette near the mouth end, letting in air; CU found this procedure reduced tars about 45 per cent and nicotine about 30 per cent in the smoke of cigarettes, but stressed that such reductions will result only if the smoker maintains his normal smoking pattern. A filter holder, *Aquafilter*, was tested in two forms; a conventional holder with a wettable, replaceable filter, and a newer short holder with a pre-wet fibrous wad, holder and all to be thrown away after use with one pack of cigarettes. CU found that the older version reduced tars and nicotine in tested brands (*Kent* and *Chesterfield* kings) from about 70 to about 90 per cent, though users complained that flavor suffered. The newer version did almost as well at reducing tars and nicotine, but occasionally plugged up or leaked "juice" into the user's mouth; here, too, flavor suffered. Finally, a cigarette, the *Diplomat*, was made from tobacco cured "to minimize the toxic effects of tars and nicotine"; CU found that this claim was based on a medical report sponsored by the manufacturer and thus required further confirmation.

## CIGARETTES

240, 514

Preliminary findings on two new developments designed to reduce tar and nicotine in cigarette smoke by admitting more air through the paper. Three brands reported here (*Kent*, *Rembrandt*, *Salem*) claimed to do this by using more porous paper, one (*Spud*) by slits cut in the paper. Main conclusion: all four of these cigarette brands made a good showing, with *Spud* lowest in tars and nicotine. Also discussed: *Vanguard*, a tobaccoless cigarette which CU staff members found rather irritating to smoke (subsequent tests showed improvement on this count). The smoke is free of nicotine and tobacco tars, although it does have some tars in it. Full test report on cigarettes is scheduled for January 1960 reports. See above for CU's comment on *Diplomat* cigarettes.

## CIGARS, LITTLE

512

Twelve brands tested, priced from 20 cigars for 25¢ (1¼¢ per cigar) to 10 cigars for 35¢ (3½¢ per cigar). All smoked by laboratory machines, smoke checked for tar and nicotine content. Main conclusions: smoke from little cigars averaged considerably higher in both tars and nicotine than that from cigarettes previously tested in the same way by CU; furthermore, neither a filter tip nor shorter length gave assurance of lower tars—eight brands of regular 5¢ cigars, tested for comparison, gave about three times as many puffs and averaged only 1/6 more tar and ½ more nicotine per cigar than the little cigars. Cigarette smokers on the test panel felt most little cigars resembled cigars in flavor, while cigar smokers felt they tasted like cigarettes or a cigar-cigarette cross. The four brands judged mildest by the panel (*All*, *Milds*, *St. Regis*, *Jiff*) were highest in tars. Report included comment by CU's medical consultant. (Main point: switching from cigarettes to little cigars will not reduce the health hazard if the smoker still inhales.) Little cigars listed by type, and within type by increasing tar content.

**PLAIN TIP, REGULAR:** *Bantam*, *Between the Acts*, *Milds*. **PLAIN-TIP, LONG-SIZE:** *House of Morgan*, *Juan de Fuca*, *Madison*. **PLAIN-TIP, KING-SIZE:** *Cadets*, *Trend*, *Wiff 'N' Puff*. **FILTER-TIP, KING-SIZE:** *Tipt*, *Jiff*, *St. Regis*, *All*.

## CLOTHES, BOYS'

458

Introductory discussion to three related product reports (see BLUE JEANS, BOYS'; POLO SHIRTS, BOYS'; SHOES, BOYS').

## CLOTHING

see Belfast "self-ironing" fabric; Blue jeans, boys'; Cashmere; Clothes, boys'; Furs, a guide to; Garment closure, Velcro; Polo shirts, boys'; Shoes, boys'; Stockings, elastic, Supp-hose; Sweaters, women's; Textile labeling, Federal legislation on; Wash-and-wear blouses, women's; Wash-and-wear fabrics; Wash-and-wear summer suits, men's

## COFFEE-MAKERS, AUTOMATIC

638

Thirty-four models tested—three vacuum-type (priced from \$29.95 to \$39.95) and 31 percolators (\$8.95 to \$31.95). Most were rated by the manufacturer to give 8-10 cups. All were tested by brewing coffee in two ways: with varying amounts of water but a constant ratio between water and ground coffee, and with constant amounts of water but varying water-to-coffee ratios. One conclusion: assuming a model had provision for adjusting the strength, the strongest setting would give best results. Other factors considered in the tests were time involved, electrical consumption, brewing temperatures, holding temperatures, and temperatures reached when reheating coffee. In addition, construction and convenience features (handles, spouts, indicator lights, and so on) were evaluated. Report compared vacuum and percolator types: the former generally were easier to clean, could brew "good" coffee in smaller quantities the latter cost less initially, were easier to store, and offered a much larger choice of models. *Except as noted, listed by types in order of estimated overall quality.*

### VACUUM-TYPE

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Sunbeam "Coffeemaster" C30C, \$39.95 (\$55.50); ✓Knapp-Monarch 51-501, \$29.95; **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Cory ACB-3, \$39.95 (\$49.95).

### PERCOLATORS

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** The first two models, about equal in overall quality, listed alphabetically: ✓General Electric 28P41, \$19.95; ✓Silex 1909, \$29.95 (\$37.95). ✓General Electric 18P40, \$31.95 (Model P400, \$32.50); Westinghouse PE-583, \$17.95 (\$20.95); Century CM 750, \$16.95 (\$24.95); Sunbeam "Coffeemaster" AP10-A, \$29.95 (\$40.25). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Mirro-Matic 109M, \$18.95 (\$24.95); Wards "Signature" Cat. No. 2828, \$15.45 plus shipping; Dominion 1603C, \$15.95; Wizard JC 1389, \$12.95; Royal Rochester 2051, \$24.95; Grant-Maid WTG 9516, \$12.98; Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6718, \$9.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 6318, \$14.95 incl. shipping). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR TO GOOD:** Farberware "Superfast 122", \$31.95 (\$40.95); Mirro-Matic 102M, \$12.95; Universal "Coffeematic" B4448, \$19.95; Cory "Capri" DPX, \$21.95 (\$31.95); Mirro-Matic 132M, \$17.95; Mirro-Matic 312M, \$8.95. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Dormeyer CP-8-BU, \$18 (\$21.95); Dormeyer CP-1-BU, \$21 (\$34.95). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR TO POOR:** Presto KK01-A, \$24.95 (\$29.95); West Bend 7270E, \$29.95 (\$37.50); Cory "Patrician" DXCP, \$24.95 (\$34.95); Empire 1910, \$12.95 (\$13.95); West Bend "Flavo-Matic" 3260E, \$17.95 (\$25.50). **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Dormeyer CP-1-BU, \$21 (\$34.95) (shock hazard); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6725, \$14.95 plus shipping (shock hazard); Toastmaster 5DI, \$29.95 (shock hazard); Universal "Coffeematic" 4470, \$29.95 (\$34.95) (shock hazard); Wards Cat. No. 2817, \$10.95 in retail stores (shock hazard); Dominion 1608, \$19.95 (inadequately shielded terminal pins).

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## COOLING THE HOME

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## COSMETICS

see Baby powders; Deodorants and antiperspirants; Home-permanent kits; Perfumes; Lipsticks and coal-tar colors; Otogen "wonder drug"

## CREDIT CARDS, COST OF

140

Examination of the growing business use of credit cards, particularly those which (unlike the ones issued without charge by individual firms) cost a fee and allow charging for a variety of goods and services. Best known: the American Express Co. (card fee, \$6) and the Diners' Club (fee, \$5), both of which also hoped to see their memberships used for non-business spending. CU admitted the advantages of credit cards for businessmen—convenience, once-a-month billing, a record for income-tax purposes—but pointed to their real and potential drawbacks. Among the latter: almost no transportation facilities were extended to Diners Club or American Express members; since participating firms have to pay a commission on business brought in by card-holders, some participants have been tempted to raise prices to cover the commission; any card-holder, seduced by the ability to "charge it," might spend up to one-third more than a comparable cash customer; a card holder who loses his card is liable for any purchases charged against it from then until he notifies the issuing agency. In sum, CU pointed out that the extension of credit-card charge accounts is an added cost levied on the distribution of goods and services; and the consumer pays it.

## CREDIT PLANS, BANK

488

Discussion of bank-charge plans, a blend of the credit-card idea (above) and the revolving-credit charge account offered by many department stores. The card-holder gets a stated amount of credit at cooperating outlets and agrees to monthly repayments (making more credit possible); each outlet pays the bank a commission for business thus obtained. CU felt small retailers might profit by this arrangement, which also was good business for the banks. The card-holder, however, received only the ability to say "Charge it" and for this would pay 12 per cent to 18 per cent in true annual interest—the extent of the added cost generally being concealed by the lender. With financing and small-loan companies also making such charge plans available, CU stressed the great and growing danger that more and more families may be led into over-commitment, to borrowing at excessive interest costs that are concealed by misleading statements of charges, and urged that all costs of consumer loans be stated in true-annual-interest terms.

## CROSSOVER NETWORK, HIGH-FIDELITY

4

Following its December 1958 report on results of tests of high-fidelity loud-speaker systems, CU offered do-it-yourself instructions for making a crossover network to permit use of the top-rated *Electrostat* 3 tweeter with any of the four check-rated speaker systems. Later the Radio Shack Corp. of Boston, a distributor of the *Electrostat*, brought out its own crossover network in kit form (\$4.95) or completely assembled (\$6.95). See also HIGH-FIDELITY SYSTEMS, STEREO, COMPLETE.

## CU'S DIARY

222, 491

Brief comments on various current topics affecting consumers; advertising, packaging, product standards, buying on credit, etc.

# D

## DEHUMIDIFIERS

298

General buying guidance on dehumidifiers, priced, typically, from about \$75 to \$125: how they work (by drawing in warm, moist air, then cooling it over

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refrigerated coils, thus making the air lose moisture), their main value (in reducing excess dampness in cellars, storage areas, utility rooms), their ineffectiveness in living quarters (because they function best in tightly closed areas where new moisture-laden air cannot enter), and points to check in buying (convenience of water disposal, weight, ease of cleaning, controls).

## DEODORANTS AND ANTIPERSPIRANTS

379

Discussion of how body odor is caused (in large part by the action of skin bacteria on secretions from the sweat glands)—and ways to combat it (there's no complete substitute for bathing). Two main types of products are available: deodorants (and deodorant soaps), which impede bacterial action; and antiperspirants, which may do that in addition to reducing the secretion of perspiration. CU felt that, of the two products, antiperspirants offer more for the money. Warning: the element zirconium, found in some brands, has been suspected of causing granuloma, a chronic thickening of the skin; thus it would seem advisable to avoid products containing zirconium until more is known about the problem.

## DEODORIZERS, ROOM

89

CU explored claims made in three broad categories—as air fresheners, sanitizers, infectious-disease antagonists—for 40 room deodorizers. Report pointed out that no household deodorizer “kills” odors; rather, it either masks them with a less objectionable odor or numbs the olfactory nerves. As for sanitizers, CU strongly doubted the value of germicidal chemicals added to deodorizers and used under ordinary conditions. And of deodorizers alleged to check the spread of infections, CU pointed out that modern hospitals generally have not adopted air-disinfection chemicals to control bacterial and viral cross-infection. Actually, the safety of such chemicals has not been established. CU's conclusion: until more is known about room deodorizers and about their safety, users might better remove odors the traditional way—by opening a window.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

see Meat grading, threats to; Orange juice: Spot removal, pamphlet on

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMERS, LEGISLATION FOR

276

Discussion of the bill introduced by Estes Kefauver of Tennessee and 23 other Senators to create a Federal Department of Consumers, headed by a Secretary of Consumers with Cabinet status. It would have five main functions: 1) to represent the U.S. consumer where Government activities affect his interests; 2) to serve the same purpose before the independent regulatory agencies (such as the FCC); 3) to receive and evaluate consumer complaints on commercial and trade practices; 4) to publish information useful to consumers as buyers; 5) to transfer from other departments certain agencies (such as the FDA) already working in fields affecting consumers.

## DETERGENTS, DISHWASHER

669

In connection with its latest dishwasher project (see DISHWASHERS, AUTOMATIC), CU tested the five most widely sold dishwasher detergents (*All*, *Calgonite*, *Cascade*, *Electra-Sol*, *Finish*) for their ability to get soiled dishes clean and their effect on overglaze on china. In the former tests, all cleaned dishes equally well. Vulnerability of the overglaze to persistent use of a given detergent was estimated. Results: nil from *All*; very slight from *Cascade* and *Calgonite*; moderate from *Finish*; considerable from *Electra-Sol*.

## DIAPER RASH

329

Noting heavy advertising of products for diaper rash, CU said such products were generally unlikely to be helpful and might even aggravate the condition. Medical belief now favors keeping baby's skin as dry as possible by frequent exposure to air. In case of severe inflammation, a physician should be consulted.

## DISHWASHERS, AUTOMATIC

662

Twenty models tested—13 undercounter washers (priced from \$239.95 to \$369.95)

and seven "portable" washers (priced from \$179.95 to \$429.95). The former type is rigidly fastened in place, with permanent water, drain, and electrical connections; the latter uses temporary connections and, being mounted on casters, can be pushed out of the way when not in use. CU deliberately subjected its test models to more demanding conditions than the typical housewife would; in each case a full load of heavily soiled dishes, glassware, and silver, superficially scraped and not rinsed, was let stand overnight before washing. Scrutiny of each piece individually after the machine's normal wash-dry cycle established its relative washing ability. Such factors as flexibility of operation and drying efficiency then were considered. Finally, convenience features—ease of access, capacity, rack design, and the like—were compared. CU stressed that though the two check-rated models far outperformed others in their categories, lower rated washers still could suit many consumers if they are willing to devote more time to dish preparation (scraping and possibly some rinsing) than should be required by the check-rated machines. *Listed by types; within types, in groups according to overall dishwashing ability in CU's tests; within groups, except as noted, in order of estimated overall quality.*

#### UNDERCOUNTER MODELS

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓RCA Whirlpool Imperial FU-70, \$349.95. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** Kitchen Aid KD-12P, \$345 (\$495); Wards Fairway Cat. No. 540R, \$209 plus shipping; RCA Whirlpool Custom FU-60, \$239.95; General Electric Custom 4-Cycle SU-70S, \$369.95 (\$449); General Electric Empress 30 SU-80S, \$329.95; General Electric Princess 24 SU-60S, \$299.95 (\$379); Waste King Deluxe UC-3D, \$342.95 (Viking BI-2D, \$379). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Frigidaire Custom Imperial DW-IUZ, \$329.95 (\$463.95); Frigidaire Deluxe DW-DUZ, \$269.95 (\$392.95); Hotpoint Deluxe DD-1, \$334.95. The following three models, judged approximately equal in quality, listed alphabetically: Admiral AU6BC, \$329.95 (Model AU6W, \$399.95); Preway 1502-1W, \$329.95; Youngstown DW-301-P, \$322 (\$417.70).

#### PORTABLES

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓RCA Whirlpool Supreme FP-50, \$259.95. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** Hotpoint DEM-1, \$429.95; Kitchen Aid KD-2P, \$259.95 (\$369); RCA Whirlpool Deluxe FP-20, \$179.95; General Electric Mobile Maid SP-40S, \$269.95 (Model SP-43S, \$319); General Electric Mobilette SP-30S, \$219.95 (Model SP-33S, \$299). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Frigidaire DW-SMZ, \$229.95 (\$302.95).

#### DOG, HOW TO BUY A

578

General guidance to improve your chance of being satisfied when you buy a dog. Preliminary considerations: size, age, sex, long- or short-haired, purebred or mixed-breed, your family's size and makeup. Advice on where to purchase a dog (SPCA, Humane Society, Rescue League, individual owners, pet shops for mixed breeds); breeders, dealers, pet shops, Sears, Wards (for purebreds); what to check in your prospective purchase (health, hearing, carriage, appetite, injections given, worming, general cleanliness of seller's premises); how to register a purebred puppy with the American Kennel Club or more specialized groups.

## E

#### ECONOMICS FOR CONSUMERS

see Automobiles, compact; Cashmere; Credit cards, cost of; Credit plans, bank; Department of Consumers, legislation for; "Fair Trade" (price fixing), Federal law for; Federal Communications Commission, pressure on; Foam-rubber mattresses, antitrust action against; Food additives, legislation on; Food and Drug Administration, funds for; General Motors, antitrust action against; Home cooling (picking a contractor), Oranges, artificial coloring of; Packaging practices, deceptive; Premium offers; Shavers, electric, men's (price discussion); Supreme Court decisions and the consumer; Textile labeling, Federal legislation on; Vacuum cleaners (price discussion)

#### ELECTROLUMINESCENT LIGHT SOURCE

453

CU use-tested the much-publicized Westinghouse Rayescent Lamp Safety Light (\$1.29), a small electroluminescent phosphor panel with conventional



prongs on the back so it could be plugged into a wall outlet, where it emitted a soft greenish glow. CU judged it adequate for night-light use, noting that it consumed a minuscule 1/200th of a watt and allegedly would last 10,000 hours. One catch: if used in a baseboard outlet, its light might be cut off by obstructing furniture.

## EXERCISE, HEALTH VALUE OF

543

Discussion of the growing medical opinion that regular exercise throughout life contributes to physical and mental health and perhaps wards off specific ailments, e.g., strokes and coronary heart attacks. Aware that more research is needed, CU's medical advisers nonetheless recommended suitable exercise for all—i.e., exercise geared to one's age and habits.

## EXPOSURE METERS, PHOTOELECTRIC

581

Twenty-six models tested, priced from \$6.25 to \$34.50. Nineteen were dual-purpose models, capable of taking readings for both reflected and incident light; seven could measure reflected light only, which CU felt might well suffice the average amateur. All were tested under controlled conditions for accuracy under various levels of illumination, acceptance angle (the angle of light the meter "sees"), sensitivity, and influence of extreme temperatures. Also compared were weight, range of film-speed settings, presence or absence of "zero" adjustment, presence or absence of Light Value System numbers, Polaroid and movie-camera settings, ease of conversion from reflected- to incident-light measurement (and vice versa), sensitivity, and overall ease of use. Except as noted, rated in order of estimated overall quality. Most prices include case.

### DUAL-PURPOSE MODELS

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓General Electric Golden Crown Type PR-3, \$34.50; ✓Weston Master III Universal Model 737, \$32.50 (\$36.50); ✓Sekonic Studio Brockway Model "S", \$29.50 (\$29.50); ✓Walz Norwood Super Director, \$19.95 (\$19.95) **BEST BUY:** ✓Ikophot Rapid, \$19.95 (\$25) **BEST BUY.** First two models basically similar: Gossen Model L.V.-Six, \$17.95 (Model Sixtry, \$19.50); Sears Cat. No. 9704, \$12.50 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 2531, \$14.95 incl. shipping). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Gossen Sixtomat Model X3, \$29.95 (\$27.95); DeJur Dual Professional Model XDP, \$29.95 (\$33.95); Argus L3 "Matching Pointer," \$17.95 (\$17.95). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Accura Type NE-1, \$9.95; Walz Coronet Model BII, \$9.95 (\$9.95); Kalimar Model B-1, \$11.95 (\$11.95); Alper Deluxe, \$8.45; Sekonic Leader De Luxe Model L-8, \$8.45 (Model L-6, \$8.95); Leica Meter Model 3, \$18 (\$18). **CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTABLE** (Not Acceptable for use with color film but Acceptable with black-and-white): Bewi Automat "B", \$29.50 (\$29.50); Bewi Automat "C", \$22.50 (\$19.95). **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Chelico Capital, \$8.45 (poor accuracy).

### REFLECTED-LIGHT MODELS

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Unittic, \$6.25 **BEST BUY.** **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Sekonic Auto-Leader Model L-38, \$11.95 (\$12.50); Votar IX, \$7.95. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** General Electric Mascot II PR-35, \$10.50; Adams Cat. No. 2172, \$6.79 plus shipping; Weston Model DR-854, \$18.95 (\$21); DeJur Model 5B, \$15.95 (\$17.95).

## F

## "FAIR TRADE" (PRICE FIXING), FEDERAL LAW FOR

277

Comment on bills in both Houses of Congress for a Federal price-fixing ("fair trade") law. Citing informed opinion that the law would not pass in 1959, CU nonetheless placed its own opposition to such a law—and reasons therefor—on record. Also see *Price Fixing*.

## FANS, ATTIC

287

General buying guidance on attic fans: prices (roughly \$200-\$400, installed), considerations in choosing the right model (capacity to change the air in the house, to produce a breeze effect, and to ventilate the attic by day in order to cool living space below), controls, techniques of operation, and three basic methods of installation (fan placed horizontally in intake opening in attic



floor; fan placed vertically near intake opening with suction box built over opening; fan placed at exhaust opening with whole attic acting as suction box).

## FANS, ELECTRIC, PORTABLE

290

Thirty-one models tested in three categories—20-inch window fans (priced from \$26.95 plus shipping to \$54.95 plus shipping), high-velocity fans (priced from \$19.95 to \$39.95), 12-inch oscillating fans (priced from \$16.45 plus shipping to \$36.05). All tested for thrust, an indication of ability to circulate air; window fans also tested for ability to move air into and out of a room. All judged for convenience, safety, quality of construction, and ease of maintenance. All window fans tested had either two or three speeds; most were electrically reversible from exhaust to intake; window panels, if available, improved fan performance; "roll-about" stands were available for many. High-velocity fans tested moved less air, but were judged less noisy, than the window fans. The oscillating fans tested moved the least air but were judged least noisy. Report included advice on proper fan use. Except as noted, listed within types in order of estimated overall quality.

### 20-INCH PORTABLE WINDOW FANS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓General Electric W-7, \$49.95; ✓Fasco 2005, \$51.95 (\$67.05); ✓Dominion 2065A, \$49.95; ✓Dominion 2067, \$37.95; ✓Hunter U-20, \$39.95; Constellation T-73, \$49.95; Silex 3329, \$44.95 (\$59.95). First three models following, about equal in overall quality, listed alphabetically: Berns Air King RA20, \$39.95 (\$52.95); Fresh'nd Aire 208CR, \$49.95; Lau 2058 PR, \$42.95. Kisco SW-20-R, \$42.95; Westinghouse SR-1, \$49.95; Emerson WFPR 200 "Flair", \$44.95; Arvin 7841, \$44.95. Sears Homart Cat. No. 9383, \$26.95 plus shipping; Wards Cat. No. 2487, \$54.95 plus shipping, incl. stand and panels. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Viking 720, \$39.95 (shock hazard).

### HIGH-VELOCITY FANS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Hunter V-12, \$39.95 (Model 1257, \$49.50); ✓Westinghouse R2021, \$39.95; Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 8029, \$27.95 plus shipping. The following two models, not comparable with preceding fans or each other, listed alphabetically: Dominion 2032 (16-in. fan), \$31.95; Silex 3398 (8-in. fan), \$19.95 (\$27.95).

### 12-INCH OSCILLATING FANS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 8012, \$23.95 plus shipping; ✓Diehl G12A-J16, \$31.75 (\$42.50); Fasco 127, \$36.05 (\$48.40). The first three models following, about equal in quality, listed alphabetically: Emerson "Northwind" NW-120, \$29.95; General Electric S125, \$29.95; Westinghouse 12LA 5, \$29.95. Hunter R-12, \$29.95; Silex 3385, \$24.95; Wards Cat. No. 2463 MO, \$16.45 plus shipping.

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, PRESSURE ON

55

CU commented on indications that the major TV and radio networks were pressuring the FCC to drop all considerations of program content when it considered renewal of a station's license. CU's view: if the broadcasters win the sole right to dictate what comes over the air, the set-owner's stake in a strictly public facility—the air waves—will have been whittled down to a thin toothpick.

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

see Cashmere; Cigarettes; Dept. of Consumers, legislation for; Furs, a guide to; General Motors, antitrust action against; Textile labeling, federal legislation on; Tires

## FLASHLIGHT, "SELF-POWERED"

397

CU examined the EL-K Electro Disk Flashlight (\$1.98), advertised as "self-powered," with "no bulbs or batteries to replace, ever." CU found that both bulb and batteries were conventional penlight components, and neither could be replaced without destroying the case to get at them. CU's conclusion: the most remarkable thing about the Electro Disk was the audacity of the claims made for it.

## FLOOR POLISHER, MINI-SHINE

6

CU tried this widely promoted polisher, which lists at \$3.98 and is advertised to

"end floor waxing forever." Polisher included a long wooden handle and a cloth envelope on a block of wood; the cloth was to be rubbed across the floor "until you get the desired shine and lustre." CU rubbed with varying pressures on new linoleum. Result: no discernible effect. Rating: Not Acceptable.

## FLOOR-WAX REMOVERS

244

Eight brands tested. High-rated floor waxes (see FLOOR WAXES, below) were applied to linoleum panels, allowed to set, then removed according to wax-remover label directions. None of the tested removers was judged better than Good, nor was any judged as effective as a simple solution of 1½ cups of soap (CU used *Ivory Snow*) and 3 fl. oz. of household ammonia in a gallon of water. (In very hard water, use synthetic detergent instead of soap.) Even without ammonia, soap or detergent and water outperformed some of the wax removers—and usually was much less expensive (5¢ to 8¢ per gallon). CU recommended sticking to these solutions unless the old wax is unusually resistant, in which case a high-rated remover can be tried (since in some instances one of the latter was best at removing a particular wax). Listed in order of estimated efficiency in removing self-polishing floor waxes from linoleum. Costs per gallon calculated on minimum amounts per gallon of water suggested on labels, at average prices paid by CU's shoppers.

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Master-Mixed Wax Remover and Cleaner, Cat. No. 2742 (Sears), 15¢ per gal.; Schalk's Waxoff, 13¢ per gal.; Kleen Floor Wax Remover and Cleaner, 21¢ per gal.; Fuller Floor Cleaner, 44¢ per gal.; Beacon All-Brands Wax Remover, 7¢ per gal.; Stanley Floor Cleaner and Wax Remover, 63¢ per gal. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** Schalk's Liquid Waxoff, 27¢ per gal. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Bruce Asphalt Tile Cleaner, 27¢ per gal.

## FLOOR WAXES, SELF-POLISHING

4, 70

Twenty-one brands tested, priced from 57¢ to \$1.59 per qt. Applied to linoleum panels according to label directions and judged on application properties (general appearance, gloss, color, evenness), traffic performance (ability to resist soiling, streaking, scratching, scuffing, and wear), water resistance, slip resistance, maintenance properties, removability, and reapplication properties. Listed in order of estimated overall quality for use on linoleum. Prices are for 1-qt. size, except as noted.

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Simoniz Vinyl, 86¢. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Beacon Quik-Gloss Self Polishing, 93¢; Glo-Coat Hard Gloss Self Polishing, 84¢; A-Penn Hard Finish Self Polishing, 60¢; Wilbert No-Rub Non-Scuff Heavy Duty, 78¢; Bright Sail Hard Sheen, 57¢ (rating applies only to formulation sold outside NYC metropolitan area); O-Cedar Foot-Note, \$1.59; Old English Dri-Brite Self Polishing, 80¢; Klear Self Polishing, \$1.52 for 1 qt., 14 oz.; Ful-Brite, \$1.33. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** Maid of Honor Heavy Duty Self-Polishing No. 6453 (Sears), 98¢; Stride, \$1.26; Bruce Self-Polishing, 75¢; Freewax Self-Polishing, \$1.21. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Fullustre No-Rub, \$1.22; Aerowax No Rubbing, 58¢; Butcher's Green Stripe Self-Polishing, \$1.53. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR-TO-POOR:** Continental Grip-Kote Six Month Self-Polishing, \$1.39; Stanley EZ Glow, \$1.59; Bruce Asphalt Tile Wax, \$1.09. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Maid of Honor Hard Surface Self

## Can't find a product?

*If you can't locate a report on a given product by name in this guide, try the category to which it belongs—for example, COSMETICS, FOOD, GARDENING, HEALTH AND MEDICINE, HI-FI EQUIPMENT. If a report was published during the year, a reference to it will appear in the listing under the broad category to which it belongs.*

**Polishing (Sears), 88¢** (four out of five test samples found unusable due to coagulation).

## FOOD

see Breakfast drink, Tang; Food additives, legislation on; Frozen dinners; Frozen fruit pies; Ice cream, packaged; Margarine and heart attacks; Meat grading, threats to; Milk; Oranges, artificial coloring of; Orange juice; Pancake mix, imitation blueberry; Peanut spread, Jif; Potatoes, instant mashed; Poultry inspection and labeling; Pregnancy, nutritional needs in; Proteins; Sherry wines; Strontium-90 in milk

## FOOD ADDITIVES, LEGISLATION ON

41, 444

Comment on the Federal law (enacted September 1958) to provide better consumer protection against chemical additives in food that are capable of causing toxic, allergic or cancer-inciting effects. Previously, of more than 700 specific chemicals regularly added to food, at least 150 were of unknown safety—a situation on which CU frequently had urged action. CU felt some provisions in the new law are vaguely phrased and some desirable features omitted, but called it "a real advance."

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

see Food additives, legislation on; Food and Drug Administration, funds for; Lipsticks and coal-tar colors; Oranges, artificial coloring of; Orange Juice; Pancake mix, imitation blueberry; Peanut spread, Jif; Poultry inspection and labeling; Proteins; Reducing aids, drugs and devices; Vacuum cleaners (health claims)

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, FUNDS FOR

210

CU called attention to the importance of the Food and Drug Administration in carrying out the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; the need for funds to enable the FDA to do its job; Congress' consistent failure to vote adequate funds for this purpose; the FDA's new responsibility for the 1958 Food Additives Amendment (see FOOD ADDITIVES, LEGISLATION ON)—and the prospect that Congress again would fail to meet the FDA's basic financial needs.

## FOOD MIXERS, ELECTRIC

568

Thirty-one models tested—14 table-stand models (priced from \$21.95 to \$69.50) and 17 hand-held models (priced from \$12.95 plus shipping to \$24.95). Included among the table-stand group were four lightweight models, intermediate in character between the two types, listed separately in the Ratings below. All were tested for durability (equivalent to about 10 years' normal use) and for a variety of everyday kitchen uses (e.g., preparation of various batters, whipping heavy cream, mashing and whipping potatoes). Also compared were such convenience characteristics as weight, storage, ease of using speed controls, and effectiveness and ease of using certain attachments. *Except as noted, listed in order of estimated overall quality.*

### TABLE-STAND MODELS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Sunbeam 12W, \$47.95 (\$56.95); Kitchenaid 3-C, \$69.50 (\$89.50); Wards Cat. No. 2061, \$34.95 plus shipping; Dormeyer Silver Star 4400, \$59.95 (\$80). Three models, not recommended because of relatively low overall quality, listed alphabetically: Dormeyer Mixwell 5100-R1, \$39.95 (\$59.95); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 08249, \$24.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 08249, \$34.95 incl. shipping); Wizard JC1178, \$34.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Hamilton Beach Model K, \$49.95 (\$65.50) (poor durability); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 08260, \$31.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 08260, \$44.95 incl. shipping) mechanical failure).

### LIGHTWEIGHT MODELS

**ACCEPTABLE:** General Electric 17M25, \$29.95. One model not recommended because of relatively low overall quality: Dormeyer Mix Maid 9700, \$29.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Iona Mixall Deluxe R-52, \$21.95 (\$27.95) (very poor performance); Wizard JC1177, \$23.95 (shock hazard and very poor performance).

### HAND-HELD MODELS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Westinghouse PM581, \$21 (\$26.50); ✓Hamilton Beach Mixette 60,

\$16.95 (\$21.75); ✓Sunbeam HM-1, \$21 (\$25.25); ✓Dormeyer 18, \$19.95 (\$24.95); ✓Wards Cat. No. 2028, \$12.95 plus shipping; West Bend 3230E, \$19.95 (\$24.95); Waring Mixor RM-2, \$19.95 (\$24.95); Iona Mixall R-5, \$17.95 (\$19.95); Oster 429, \$20.95 (\$27.50). First three models following, apparently identical, listed alphabetically: Fostoria 50X, \$19.95; Manning Bowman 5MO, \$19.95; Wizard Cat. No. JC1137, \$15.95. Knapp-Monarch Redi-Mixer 9-512, \$19.95; Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 8282, \$14.50 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 1482, \$18.95 incl. shipping); Universal 6240, \$19.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** General Electric 18M37, \$19.95 (Model M5, \$25.95) (shock hazard); Knapp-Monarch Redi-Mixer 9-515, \$24.95 (mechanical failure).

## FOOD SLICER, DIAL-O-MATIC

397

CU use-tested the widely advertised Dial-O-Matic Food Cutter (\$3.98), a plastic slicer with interchangeable metal blades (straight-edge and ripple-edge). CU found that the Dial-O-Matic was so constructed that the user ran a real risk of cutting a finger. In addition, it was hard to clean.

## FOOD-WASTE DISPOSERS

418

Twenty-five models tested, priced from \$47.50 plus shipping to \$139.50. Tested with the most taxing materials in three broad categories—cooked steer ribbones (representing hard, rigid materials), citrus rinds (tough, leathery materials), cornhusks (stringy, fibrous materials)—for performance factors (grinding speed, fineness of grind, discharge characteristics, chamber clean-out, noisiness), and durability (via accelerated wear-tests). CU felt the ideal disposer should handle just about any food waste quickly and quietly, using only a moderate amount of water; clean itself out thoroughly; so reduce waste in size as not to block household plumbing; and stand up well in rugged use. One model was check-rated. Report included data on prices (discounts are widespread) and installation. Except as noted, listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Waste King Imperial Hush, Imp. 1, \$129.95. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Hotpoint MW-15, \$99.95; Hotpoint MW-12, \$99.95; Hotpoint MW-11, \$79.95; General Electric FA-60S, \$89.95; General Electric FA-60R, \$89.95. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** The following 13 models, each with one or more specific limitations, in order of increasing price: Wards Fairway Cat. No. 530, \$47.50 plus shipping; Pioneer D-56, \$54.95; Kelvinator FDH-1, \$59.50; Frigidaire FDZ-3, \$59.95 (\$80.95); RCA-Whirlpool ECD 330, \$59.95; National 124A, \$69.95 (\$69.95); In-Sink-Erator 77, \$89.50 (\$92); RCA Whirlpool EID 311, \$89.95; Frigidaire FDZ-1, \$98.95; In-Sink-Erator 17LC, \$99.50 (\$100.50); Waste King SH-7000, \$99.95 (\$114.95); National 744A, \$119.95; In-Sink-Erator 27LC, \$139.50 (\$159.50). **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** American Standard AS-65, \$79.95 (inadequate protection of top opening); Chambers CF-13, \$79.95 (jammed frequently); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 4170, \$49.95 in retail stores (\$54.95) (inadequate protection of top opening); Westinghouse FD-10, \$59.95 (performance flaws); Whirl-A-Way SD70X, \$79.95 (\$79.95) (jammed frequently); Youngstown FWD 100, \$79.95 (\$89.95) (cutters broke frequently).

## FRANKFURTER COOKER, DOG-O-MATIC

454

CU use-tested the Westinghouse Dog-O-Matic Hot Dog Cooker (\$9.95), in which from one to six frankfurters, their ends impaled on metal spikes, create an electric circuit and act as their own heating element. Franks thus cooked were judged tasty and juicy. Overall, CU felt the Dog-O-Matic was a useful device—but high-priced.

## FROZEN DINNERS

16

Seventeen brands tested, each consisting of a meat component (chicken, turkey, beef or fish), potatoes, and usually one vegetable, arranged on an

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aluminum tray designed to hold the food during heating, then serve as a disposable plate. Tested for flavor, texture, appearance, freedom from defects, and bacterial count; though all dinners tested scored high, none was judged equal to the best home or restaurant cooking. Report noted that the frozen-dinner market was fluid, with many regional and local brands appearing (brands tested by CU accounted for perhaps 60 per cent of total sales) and with prices unstable. For these reasons the Ratings were not presented in their usual form, and prices were omitted from them. *Listed by main-component types; within types by groups; within groups in alphabetical order.*

#### FRIED-CHICKEN DINNERS

**VERY GOOD:** Banquet; Birds Eye; Swanson. **GOOD:** Morton; Ocoma.

#### ROAST-TURKEY DINNERS

**VERY GOOD:** Banquet; Birds Eye; Morton; Ocoma; Swanson.

#### POT-ROAST DINNERS

**VERY GOOD:** Banquet; Birds Eye. **GOOD:** Morton; Ocoma; Swanson.

#### FILLET-OF-HADDOCK DINNERS

**VERY GOOD:** Red L; Swanson

### FROZEN FRUIT PIES

124

Thirty brands tested—16 apple, 14 peach: 12, national in distribution, 18, regional. All baked as per label instructions, then judged on taste, proportion of fruit, appearance and texture of crust and filling, and absence of defects. Result: about two-thirds of the brands were rated **Excellent** (equivalent to high-quality home-made pies), the rest **Good**. Because prices were fluid—having dropped from as high as 79c a pie in 1953 to as low as 29c in 1959—they were omitted from the report. *Listed by type of fruit, in order of estimated overall quality by group, and alphabetically within groups.*

#### APPLE PIE

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT.** National brands: Libby's, Pet-Ritz, Simple Simon, Swanson, Top Frost. Regional brands: Betty Bitler's, Farm House, Johnston's, Lloyd J. Harriss, Sunkist. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD.** National brands: Pictsweet, Morton. Regional brands: Chet's, Finast, Ocoma, Town Square.

#### PEACH PIE

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT.** National brand: Swanson. Regional brands: Betty Bitler's, Farm House, Finast, Johnston's, Lloyd J. Harriss, Ocoma, Sunkist. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD.** National brands: Morton, Pet-Ritz, Simple Simon, Top Frost. Regional brands: Chet's, Town Square.

### FURS, A GUIDE TO

587

General buying guidance on 36 furs most widely sold in the U.S. in women's coats, capes, jackets, stoles, and scarves. Though the Federal Fur Products Labeling Act of 1952 ended most deception based on falsifying the appearance and naming of furs, fictitious prices still are a frequent hazard and the consumer should know several general rules on buying any fur. Among the latter: Buy only from a reliable furrier (CU's definition of a safe choice: a long-established outlet which guarantees each sale in writing, stresses storage and repair—remodeling service as well as sales, and has no record of complaints at the local Better Business Bureau); match your coat to your needs (e.g., get a warm fur for cold-weather wear, a serviceable one for daily use); top quality in a given fur probably is a better buy than a lower quality in a higher-priced fur; though details may vary, the body of a custom-made garment does not differ greatly from those of ready-made ones; proper fit is important to a fur garment's life; basic points of quality to look for include the fur itself (thickest, and best pelts come from animals taken in cold weather), smooth matching of undyed furs, brittle areas in the leather (indicating defective pelts), possible overbleaching before dyeing (indicated by curled-over hair tips), lining, and finishing. Report included advice on care, storage, renovation, and conversion of fur garments. *Facts about 36 widely sold furs are condensed herewith. Furs are listed in alphabetical order. Prices apply to garments of good quality and workmanship. Letters following prices stand for serviceability (S) and warmth (W).* (Turn page for Ratings)

**BEAVER:** Coats, \$600-\$1200; jackets, \$350-\$800. S: good. W: good. **FOX, Blue:** Rounded stoles, \$125-\$200; straight stoles, \$175-\$300. S: fair to low. W: moderate. **FOX, Platina or Platinum** (available only in custom garments): Stoles, \$300-\$500. S: fair to low. W: moderate. **FOX, Red** (available only in custom garments): Large stoles, \$250-\$500. S: fair to low. W: moderate. **FOX, Silver** (available only in custom garments): Stoles, \$300-\$500. S: fair. W: moderate. **FOX, White:** Stoles, \$200-\$350. S: fair. W: moderate. **KIDSKIN:** Coats and capes, \$150-\$250; jackets, \$100-\$200. S: fair to low. W: scant. **KOLINSKY:** Jackets, capes, scarves, stoles (per skin), \$10-\$20. S: good. W: moderate. **LAMB, Broadtail:** Coats, \$2500-\$4000; capes and jackets, \$1500-\$2500. S: low. W: scant. **LAMB, Broadtail-Processed:** Jackets, capes, \$150-\$550. S: low to fair. W: scant. **LAMB, Persian:** Coats black and brown (better grades) \$900-\$1200; (average quality), \$500-\$700; grey, \$600-\$1500; jackets (better grades), \$400-\$600; (average quality) \$250-\$400. S: fair to good. W: good. **LAMB, Mouton-Processed:** Coats, \$100-\$200; jackets, \$50-\$85. S: good. W: good. **LEOPARD:** Coats (choice) \$2500-\$3500; (good) \$1500-\$2500; (fair) \$1000-\$1500; jackets, (choice) \$1000-\$1200, (good), \$850-\$1000; (fair) \$600-\$700. S: low. W: moderate. **MARMOT:** Coats (let out), \$250-\$500; jackets, \$150-\$250. S: fair to low. W: good. **MARTEN, American and Canadian:** Scarves (per skin) \$40-\$80. S: fair. **MARTEN, Baum:** scarves (per skin), \$40-\$85. S: fair. **MARTEN, Stone:** Scarves (per skin), \$60-\$150. S: good. **MINK, American Wild:** Coats, \$2500 and up; jackets, \$1500; and up; capes \$1200 and up; stoles, split skins, \$300-\$600; let out, \$900-\$1500; low quality, \$200; scarves (per skin) \$35-\$75. S: good. W: good. **MINK, China and Japanese:** Coats, skin-on-skin, \$800-\$1200; let out, \$1000-\$1500; jackets, skin-on-skin, \$600-\$800; let out, \$900-\$1200; stoles, \$200-\$400; scarves (per skin), \$10.50-\$15. S: good to fair. W: good. **MINK, Gills and Pieces:** Coats, \$400-\$600; jackets, \$250-\$350. S: good to fair. W: moderate. **MINK, Paws:** Coats, \$500-\$700; jackets, \$250-\$350. S: good. W: moderate. **MINK, Ranch and Mutations:** prices vary considerably. In brown shades: coats, \$3500-\$6000; jackets, \$2000-\$3000; stoles, \$700-\$1500 (gray shades run 15 per cent higher; white, 25 per cent higher). S: good. W: good. **MINK, Scandinavian:** Coats, \$2500-\$4000; jackets, \$1000-\$1700; stoles, \$400-\$700; scarves (per skin), \$25-\$50. S: fair. W: good. **MUSKRAT:** Coats, black-dyed sheared, \$600-\$900; backs, skin-on-skin, \$250-\$375; flanks, \$200-\$375; let out, \$450-\$750; stoles \$68-\$125. S: fair to good. W: good. **Ocelot:** Coats, \$900-\$1200; capes and jackets, \$600-\$800. S: fair to low. W: scant. **OPOSSUM, Australian:** Coats, \$600-\$1000; jackets, \$400-\$800. S: fair. W: good. **OTTER, North American:** Coats, \$1000-\$2000. S: good. W: good. **OTTER, South American or "River":** Coats, \$400-\$600. S: good to fair. W: good. **PONY:** Coats, \$250-\$500. S: fair to good. W: moderate. **RABBIT:** Coats, \$55-\$125; jackets, \$50-\$70; capes, \$50-\$70; stoles, \$25-\$45. S: fair to low. W: moderate. **RACCOON, Sheared:** Coats, natural, \$375-\$675; bleached shades, \$450-\$750; jackets, \$250-\$450. S: good. W: good. **SABLE:** Per skin, scarves, stoles, \$60-\$300. S: fair. **SEAL, Fur Alaska:** Coats, \$1200-\$2000; capes and jackets, \$800-\$1200. S: good. W: good. **Seal, Fur, Cape of Good Hope:** Coats, \$700-\$900; capes and jackets, \$400-\$600. S: good to fair. W: good. **SEAL, Hair:** Coats, \$300-\$400. S: good. W: good. **SQUIRREL:** Coats, special order, \$600-\$900; jackets, \$300-\$500; stoles, \$100-\$200; scarves, \$50-\$100. S: fair to low. W: moderate.

## G

### GARDENING

see Gardening, books on; Gardens, roll-out; Grass seed; Plant bags, plastic

### GARDENING, BOOKS ON

138 (C: 332)

CU asked outstanding horticultural librarians to select books which, taken together, would answer most major home-gardening problems. They responded with 29 titles—six general books, 23 specialized (on plant propagation; landscaping; annuals and perennials; food gardens; trees, shrubs, vines, and pruning; soils, fertilizers, plant diseases, and pests; city gardening and house plants; gardening in the South and West).

### GARDENS, ROLL-OUT

156

CU tested two brands of roll-out flower beds, *Seed-rolz* (\$1.98) and *Flowerama* (\$4.98). Consisting of a strip of light wadding material (about 18 ft. long and a foot wide) impregnated with flower seeds, each was adver-

## **CU** reports list price . . .

*. . . in brand ratings to help identify models. But discounts from list prices ranging from 10 to 40 per cent are generally available for such products as large and small electric appliances, cameras, ranges, radios, TV sets, and tires. Shop for these discounts.*

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tised as very easy to use and care for, with a large variety of flowers assured. CU found both needed the same soil preparation as conventional planting, plus protection from wind and birds, while neither produced more than about half the variety of flowers claimed (14 claimed for *Seed-rolz*, 50 for *Flowerama*). Further, the flowers were jumbled together and it was difficult for some to tell young flowers from weeds. CU's conclusion: if you prefer a flower bed with a balanced or geometric arrangement, buy your own seeds or seedlings and plant them as you desire.

### **GARMENT CLOSURE, VELCRO**

5

This closure consists of two nylon strips to be sewn onto a garment. One strip has hundreds of tiny nylon hooks; the other, thousands of tiny nylon loops. Loops and hooks become firmly entangled when strips are pressed together, yet can be pulled apart easily. CU tested Velcro on a man's jacket, found it kept its strength through repeated launderings and dry-cleaning, thousands of openings and closings.

### **GENERAL MOTORS, ANTITRUST ACTION AGAINST**

206

Discussion of Department of Justice preparations for an antitrust indictment of General Motors, with special reference to a Senate subcommittee's report on "administered prices" in the U.S. auto industry. Basic question: is bigness (as exemplified by GM) bad per se? The subcommittee's findings offered partial answers: auto-making is being concentrated in ever fewer firms; GM virtually sets prices for the entire industry, so car-makers compete largely at the promotional level (as in style changes, horsepower boosts, built-in obsolescence, advertising appropriations); industry concentration does not result from, nor does it produce, more efficient operation; thanks to its various limitations, the industry is not responsive to public need and demand. CU's comment: if the Government's antitrust action could free the auto industry from costly non-price competition, it would make a major contribution to the public welfare.

### **GRASS SEED**

476

General buying guidance for the homeowner. Covered: why to buy lawn-seed mixtures by label rather than brand name; what the label tells about a mixture; which grasses have what characteristics; the three climatic regions of the U.S. and which type of grass does best in each (mixtures of bluegrass and red fescue seeds in Northern cool-season areas; Bermuda and similar grasses grown vegetatively in the hot Southern parts of the country, one type or the other—depending on local conditions—in the transitional area between North and South). Grass-seed mixtures judged Good or better by CU's consultants for use in cool-season areas were listed alphabetically within types (and even for these, contents listed on label should be checked):

**FOR GENERAL-PURPOSE USE** (50% to 80% Kentucky bluegrasses, 20% to 40% red fescues): Merion Formula, Northrup King Golf Brand, Scotts Western Blend Picture Lawn Brand \*24 Mixture, Sears Cross Country containing Merion Strain Kentucky Bluegrass Cat. No. 2463, Sears Cross Country Superfine Mixture Cat. No. 2331, Sears Cross Country Superfine Plus Cat. Nos. 2620 and 2621, Turf-



Maker Lawn Seed, Wards Garden Mark Show Lawn Cat. No. 6931, Wonderlawn with Merion Kentucky Bluegrass, X-L Merion Mix.

**FOR USE IN SHADE** (40% to 60% red fescues, 10% to 20% rough bluegrass, 10% to 50% Kentucky bluegrasses): Farmingdale Lawn Seed Mixture, Long Island Lawn Seed Mixture, New Improved Long Island Mixture, Northrup King Fore Brand, Scotts Family Brand \*54 Mixture, Scotts Western Blend Family Lawn Brand \*64 Mixture, Shady Place Lawn Seed, Wonderlawn Utility Formula.

## H

### HEADACHE

494

Discussion of the heavily promoted headache remedies and the fact that headache is not a disease but a symptom. The main types of headache—acute (such as those caused by infectious diseases, hangover, and carbon-monoxide poisoning), migraine, and “tension”—were outlined. One conclusion: the use of proper drugs (plain aspirin remains the most generally effective), plus psychotherapy and other treatment, offer a firm basis for effective relief.

### HEALTH AND MEDICINE

see Antibiotic drugs; Artificial respiration; Bags, plastic, danger of; Cancer, current research on; Cigarette smoking, products to curb; Cigarettes; Cigars, little; Deodorants and antiperspirants; Diaper rash; Exercise, health value of; Food additives, legislation on; Headache; Immunization; Lipsticks and coal-tar colors; Margarine and heart attacks; Oranges, artificial coloring of; Parasitic diseases; Personal health record, recommendation for; Polio shots, recommendation for; Pregnancy, nutritional needs in; Proteins; Reducing aids, drugs and devices; Salt and water in the body; Stockings, elastic, Supp-hose; Strokes, new pamphlets on; Strontium-90 in milk; Toy, educational, The Visible Man; Vaporizers, electric; Vibrators, do-it-yourself

### HI-FI EQUIPMENT

see Amplifying systems, stereophonic; Crossover network, high-fidelity; Hi-fi systems, stereo, complete; Loudspeakers; Pickups and pickup arms, stereophonic; Record reviews; Turntables, high-fidelity

### HI-FI SYSTEMS, STEREO, COMPLETE

560

For the hi-fi fan interested in the nearest approach to true high fidelity in stereophonic systems at various prices, CU offered three systems made up of components rated high (in most cases, check-rated) in its latest tests. The \$388 Economy System, termed a sensible compromise between cost and quality, included the Bogen B-61 record player, Shure M7D pickup, two AR-2 speaker systems, and the 10-watt Bogen DB-212 stereo amplifier. The \$591 Best Buy system, offering most high-fidelity for the dollar among these systems, was made up of the Rek-O-Kut L-34 turntable, Electro-Sonic S-1000 pickup arm, Shure M3D pickup, two AR-2 speakers, two Electrostat 3 tweeters, and the 20-watt Sherwood S-5000 stereo amplifier. The \$1322 “Super” System, the best C knew how to assemble from components yet reported on, included the Thorens TD-124 turntable with voltage-regulating transformer, Shure M3D pickup, Electro-Sonic S-1000 pickup arm, two super-speaker systems (each employing AR-1W woofer, Janszen 130 tweeter for middle range, Electrostat 3 for highs), Dynaco Stereo Pre-amplifier, and two 60-watt Dynaco Mark III power amplifiers. CU pointed out that purchase of any of these systems could be begun less expensively with only one speaker (or speaker system) for monophonic use, adding the second speaker for stereo later. Report included Tables showing 1) costs of variations in the three systems and 2) how to calculate amplifier power requirements for these systems in most rooms, along with advice on purchasing and assembling components (Write Consumers Union, Mt. Vernon, N. Y. for a special booklet explaining how to install the recommended systems; 25¢.) Prices (“audiophile net”) for selected components were as follows:

**PICKUPS:** Shure M3D, \$45. Replacement Stylus, \$22.50. Shure M7D, \$24. Replacement stylus, \$12. **PICKUP ARM:** Electro-Sonic S-1000, \$34.95. Extra plug-in head, \$2.95. **TURNABLES:** Rek-O-Kut L-34, \$59.95. Thorens TD-124, \$99.75. **SINGLE-RECORD PLAYER:** Bogen B-61, \$54.95. **AMPLIFIERS:** Bogen DB-212, less case, \$119.95.



*Dynaco Stereo Pre-Amplifier*, \$144.80; as kit, \$88.80. *Dynaco Stereo 70*, \$129.95; as kit, \$99.95. *Dynaco Mark III*, \$99.95; as kit, \$79.95. *Sherwood S-5000*, less case, \$189.50. **LOUDSPEAKERS:** *Acoustic Research, AR-1*, unfinished, \$172. *AR-1W*, unfinished, \$132. *AR-2*, unfinished, \$89. *Electrostat 3*, \$27.50 plus shipping; cross-over network, 8 ohms, \$6.95 plus shipping (as kit, \$4.95 plus shipping)—available in the NYC metropolitan area from Hudson Radio Corp., elsewhere, by mail, from Radio Shack, Boston, Mass. *Janszen 130*, in flat black finish, \$169.

## HOME COOLING

279

Introductory discussion to reports on related products (see AIR CONDITIONERS, ROOM; AIR COOLERS, PORTABLE; DEHUMIDIFIERS; FANS, ATTIC; FANS, ELECTRIC, PORTABLE). Included advice on further factors affecting home coolness—insulation, glass areas, natural ventilation, moisture-producing activities, exterior shade—and on installing and financing home-cooling devices.

## HOME-PERMANENT KITS

517

Twelve brands tested, priced from \$1.36 plus shipping to \$2.75. Each tested on six women: applied by professional hairdressers in paired comparisons (a different brand on each side of the head), then judged a week later for wave quality, hair body, estimated permanency, and other factors. Kits also examined for completeness, adequacy, convenience, and special features. Listed by groups in order of estimated overall quality for waving normal-to-wave hair with rod curlers and, except where indicated by asterisk (\*), with neutralizer; within groups, in order of price (including Federal tax) paid by CU's shoppers. Label information is included for accurate identification of tested products.

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓ *Glow Tri-Type*, Cat. No. 6243E (Sears), \$1.36 plus shipping, **BEST BUY**; ✓ *Lilt*, \$2.12 (labeled "For a Medium Wave: New Speed-Bath with Comb 'N Soak Saturator Set"); ✓ *Prom Lotion*, \$2.19 (labeled "Self-neutralizing for All Types of Hair"); ✓ *Chemtronic Life Oil Creme* by Nutri-Tonic, \$2.46. **ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** *Stanley Home Products Permanent Wave Refill* Cat. No. 211, \$1.60; *Glow*, Cat. No. 6545E (Sears), \$1.85 in Sears stores, \$1.47 plus shipping by mail; *Toni Regular*, \$2.19 (labeled "New! No Mix—No Mess!"); **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** *Elizabeth Arden Spun-Cream*, \$1.75 for the "Refill Package"; *Helena Rubinstein 2-Speed Home Permanent*, \$1.93; *Nutri-Tonic Regular*, \$2.19 (labeled "customized for medium-to-wave hair"). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR TO GOOD:** *Ogilvie Sisters*, \$2.75 (labeled "New Professional Style for All Types of Hair"). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** \**Bliss*, \$2.17 (labeled "New, for All Types of Hair").

## HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

see Appliances; Buffer, electric, Buff-ette; Carpet sweepers; Deodorizers, room; Detergents, dishwasher; Electroluminescent light source; Flashlight, "Self-powered"; Floor polisher, Mini-shine; Floor-wax removers; Floor waxes, self-polishing; Mattresses, foam-rubber; Paints, furniture; Retractable line and cord, Cordomatic; Scales, bathroom; Sheets, wash-and-wear; Shoe polisher, electric, Ronson; Spot removal, pamphlet on; Utensils, cooking, Corning Ware; Wiring, electrical, home



## ICE CREAM, PACKAGED

400

Forty-five brands tested in the largest U.S. marketing area, New York City and environs, in the two most popular flavors, vanilla and chocolate. Laboratory tests showed virtually all samples satisfactory in volume, weight, bacterial count, and fat content. Taste tests (on which Ratings were based) were made by expert dairy-product judges; flavor and body-and-texture were top criteria, along with butterfat, color, melting quality, etc. Among CU's conclusions: there was no sure correlation between price, butterfat content and/or quality; neither French nor premium-priced ice creams were necessarily better than regular brands; consumers need additional legal safeguards, particularly grade labeling and package dating. Except as noted, listed by groups in order of estimated overall quality. Prices are averages paid by CU's shoppers and, with the exceptions indicated, are for the pint size.

(Turn page for Ratings)

SUMMARY AND INDEX 29

## Page numbers, by months

The page-number references to the original reports summarized here run consecutively through the 12 issues of CONSUMER REPORTS published during 1959:

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97-152 MARCH	337-392 JULY	553-620 NOVEMBER
153-216 APRIL	393-448 AUGUST	621-688 DECEMBER

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** The following four brands, approximately equal in quality, in order of increasing price: Sealtest, 36¢; Hershey's Early American, 39¢; Sealtest Prestige, 50¢; Dolly Madison, 56¢. **ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** The following four brands, approximately equal in quality, in order of increasing price: Holly Carter, 39¢; Abbotts, 41¢; Howard Johnson's, 58¢; Schrafft's, 63¢. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Jane Logan DeLuxe, 59¢; Breyers Regency, French, 53¢; Hershey's, 30¢; Daich Crystal, French, 49¢; Ardsley, French, 28¢; American Hostess, 38¢; Walgreen's, 23¢; Lady Borden, 54¢; Breyers, 40¢; Crestmont, 27¢; Borden's, 39¢; Meadow Gold, 34¢; Snow Star, 79¢ (half gallon); Adelphia, 30¢; Foremost, 35¢; Abbotts Thrift-Pak, 33¢; Nancy Lynn, French, 39¢; Breakstone's, French, 43¢; Sally Shopwell, 27¢. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** Savarin, 79¢ (half gallon); Louis Sherry, French, 58¢; Reid's French, 53¢; Lucerne Deluxe, 39¢; Virginia Lee, French, 38¢; Top Frost, 27¢; Reid's, 47¢; Whelan's, 28¢; Park Lane, 32¢; Horn & Hardart, 49¢. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Cushman's, in round carton, 39¢; Dairy Made, 27¢; Freshpak, 27¢; Acme Ideal, 27¢; Old Hundred, 26¢; Cushman's, 29¢. **VARIABLE** (in alphabetical order): Embassy, 27¢; Lucerne Party Pride, 29¢.

### IMMUNIZATION, FAMILY

683

Report on recent developments in immunization. Though no effective vaccine against the common cold yet existed, CU's medical consultants pointed out that there were effective vaccines against types A and B influenza virus; that a "four-in-one" vaccine now was licensed for use in immunizing pre-school children simultaneously against polio, whooping cough, diphtheria, and tetanus; and that an oral vaccine against polio had shown impressive, more lasting immunity than the Salk (injected) vaccine with a note on mumps vaccines.

### IMMUNIZATION, REVIEW OF

264

Recommendation that immunization needs of the family be reviewed. Most generally desirable: polio and tetanus toxoid shots. For foreign travelers: smallpox, and other vaccines where indicated. For children: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and polio shots.

## L

### LIPSTICKS AND COAL-TAR COLORS

330

CU praised the Food and Drug Administration for taking steps to ban the use of 17 coal-tar colors in lipsticks because seven of the colors were found capable of causing "definite injury" in laboratory animals, while the rest were chemically similar to them.

### LOUDSPEAKER, IONOVAC

220

The Ionovac high-frequency loudspeaker, which makes sound by ionizing the air, originally was tested by CU in 1958; it reproduced high frequencies better than any tweeter CU tried, but wore out so rapidly that it was rated Not Acceptable. When a modified model—the Electro-Voice Ionovac T-3500

(\$150)—was tested, it again performed brilliantly, again refused to function after 250 hours' use, again was rated Not Acceptable.

#### **LOUDSPEAKER, JANSZEN 130**

**452**

The Janszen 130 tweeter (\$169 to \$188, depending on cabinet finish) was rated Good in CU's December 1958 loudspeaker report. A new version with the same model number was tested later, gave extremely smooth response in the middle frequencies, was rated Very Good and accorded a Check-Rating for use in high-fidelity systems. Report outlined the considerations for choosing a tweeter in light of this change. See also HI-FI SYSTEMS., STEREO COMPLETE.

#### **"LOW-PRICED" SIXES FOR 1959**

**365**

Individual road-test reports, with Facts and Figures, on the 1959 Chevrolet, Ford, and Plymouth Sixes, plus comparison of those cars with the 1959 Dodge, Edsel, Rambler, and Studebaker Lark Sixes. For Ratings, see AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1959.

#### **"LOW-PRICED" V-8s FOR 1959**

**80**

Individual road-test reports, with Facts and Figures, on the 1959 Chevrolet, Ford, and Plymouth V-8s with automatic transmission. For Ratings, see AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1959.

#### **LOWER-MEDIUM-PRICED V-8s FOR 1959**

**134**

Individual road-test reports, with Facts and Figures, on the 1959 Dodge, Edsel, and Pontiac. For Ratings, see AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1959.



#### **MARGARINE AND HEART ATTACKS**

**682**

Examination of the much-discussed relationship between the amount and kind of dietary fats and the incidence of heart attacks, strokes, and atherosclerosis. Despite the claims of food faddists and certain advertisers, CU's medical consultants stressed that: there is no proof that lowering the blood cholesterol of adults will prevent heart attacks and strokes or control atherosclerosis or its complications; there is no proof that substituting corn-oil margarine for other table and cooking fats will lower blood cholesterol; in light of current uncertainties in research on heart disease, the American Heart Association and other authorities recommend 1) keep your weight down and 2) get regular, moderate exercise all through adulthood; finally, the healthy adult need not exclude moderate amounts of animal fats—eggs, butter, milk, cream, ice cream, cheese—from the normal diet.

#### **MATTRESSES, FOAM-RUBBER**

**520**

Twenty models tested, priced from \$47 (on sale) to \$110, for mattress only; \$69.50 plus shipping to \$169, for mattress and box-spring sets. Tested for firmness, durability, and conformability (ability to support the body at all points); most models matched the best innerspring mattresses previously tested by CU, and were check-rated. Report noted that, though most manufacturers offer mattresses in several degrees of firmness, few models carried any indication of their firmness (the prospective buyer always should check a mattress for desired firmness first). Also included: discussion of federal anti-trust action against foam-rubber manufacturers. Listed in alphabetical order within firmness groups as determined by CU's laboratory. Except as noted, prices are list or manufacturer's suggested retail for mattress only, twin or full size; "set" indicates mattress not available without box-spring. Private-label brands, sold only in one store, are not listed.

#### **ACCEPTABLE—4½-INCH THICKNESS**

**EXTRA-FIRM:** ✓Englander Tension-Ease Airfoam Ensemble, \$79.75; ✓Quiltfoam Springwall, set \$159.50; ✓Restonic Triple Cushion Ensemble, Orthotonic Foam, set \$159 (\$159); ✓Sealy Rest, set \$159.50 (\$159.50); ✓Serta Foamer, \$79.75; ✓Slumberon Quality Foam Rubber, set \$149.50; ✓Stearns and Foster White Foam

**Latex Extra Firm**, \$79.50 to \$110, set \$88 to \$169, depending on store; ✓**Texfoam with Posture-Zone Support, Super Firm**, set \$99.95 on sale; ✓**U.S. Koylon Platinum Premier Extra Firm**, set \$149.50 twin size, \$169.50 full size. **MODERATELY FIRM**; ✓**Serta Perfect Sleeper Foam**, \$79.75; ✓**U.S. Koylon Platinum Premier**, set \$129.50 to \$139.50 twin size, \$149.50 to \$159.50 full size.

#### NOT ACCEPTABLE—4½-INCH THICKNESS

(Judged too soft for adequate support for most persons): **Sears Harmony House Foam Latex Combination No. 7682**, set \$69.95 plus shipping, twin size (**Simpsons-Sears No. 76318**, \$84.50); \$79.95 plus shipping, full size (**Simpsons-Sears No. 76319**, \$99.50); **Sears, Roebuck No. 7686**, set \$109.95 plus shipping, twin size (**Simpsons-Sears No. 76324**, \$124.95), \$129.95 plus shipping, full size (**Simpsons-Sears No. 76325**, \$144.95); **Texfoam with Posture-Zone Support**, \$47 on sale.

#### ACCEPTABLE—6-INCH THICKNESS

✓ **Sears Harmony House 6" Foam Latex Combination No. 76667**, set \$129.95 plus shipping in twin size (**Simpsons-Sears No. 76326**, \$139.95), \$149.95 plus shipping, full size (**Simpsons-Sears No. 76327**, \$159.95). Also sold as **Cat. No. 76670** for mattress only, twin size \$84.95, plus shipping (**Simpsons-Sears No. 76126**, \$94.95); full size, \$104.95 plus shipping (**Simpsons-Sears No. 76127**, \$109.95).

### MEAT GRADING, THREATS TO

437

CU called readers' attention to a proposal made by the Department of Agriculture to consider suspending grading of lamb and mutton. The suspension had been requested by the National Wool Growers Association, which echoed claims of big meat packers that Federal grading specifications were undesirable. CU pointed out that Federal grades were the only objective guides in rating meat quality, and that if lamb grades were suspended, the next step would be a drive against beef grades. (The Department subsequently announced, a full week before the final deadline, that in answer to consumer protests lamb grading would not be dropped.)

### MILK

55

CU commented on the intra-state investigation by the Massachusetts Milk Control Commission of the rise in milk prices. Results of the investigation, in the hands of a 10-member Advisory Consumer Council, might prove significant for consumers in 15 other states where police power is used to enforce fixed prices of milk. See also **STRONTIUM-90 AND MILK**.

### MOVIE SPlicERS AND EDITORS

116

Twenty-four models of splicers tested (19 using liquid cement to bind the film ends, five using transparent tape), priced from \$1.98 to \$32; and eight models of editors (each complete with cement-type splicer) priced from \$22.50 to \$122.50. Splicers tested, with 8mm film only (though all but one would take 16mm film), for ability to produce consistently good splices, smoothness of operation, and ease and convenience of use; editors also tested for optical quality (size of viewing screen, steadiness of image produced, brightness and uniformity of screen illumination, and image sharpness). CU found tape splicers somewhat easier—but more expensive—to use than cement splicers; both types of splice, properly done, stood up well. CU felt convenience was the No. 1 argument in favor of owning an editor, called this a "must" only for those who do a lot of filming and editing. Listed by types, and within types, except as noted, in order of estimated overall quality.

#### TAPE-TYPE SPlicERS

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT**: ✓**Quik Splice Pro-Splicer**, \$7.95 (\$10.95); ✓**Adams Quik Splice Senior-Splicer**, Cat. No. 1285, \$6.95 plus shipping (Wards). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR**: **Kodak Presstape Movie Splicer**, \$7.50 (\$8.95). The following two models, basically similar, in order of increasing price: **Quik Splice Professional**, \$1.98 (\$1.98); **Keystone Model D-11 Quik Splice**, \$2.50 (\$4.50).

#### CEMENT-TYPE SPlicERS

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT**: ✓**Craig Master Splicer Model S-3**, \$9.95 (\$13.30); ✓**Cine-Kodak Duo Splicer Outfit**, \$10.95 (\$13.95); ✓**Kalart Custom 8 mm Splicer Model S-4**, \$4.95 (\$6.95); ✓**Bell & Howell Model 136A**, \$22.50 (Model 604, \$21.95). **ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD**: **Baia Film Splicer**, \$7.95 (\$10.95); **Mansfield Master Auto-Splicer**, \$9.95 (\$14.95); **Sears Tower Curvomatic Cat. No.**

8617, \$14.50 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Tower Curvomatic, Cat. No. 3418, \$18.95 incl. shipping). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Griswold Junior Film Splicer Model HM-6, \$18.50 (\$28.65); Griswold Film Splicer "Professional" Model R-3, \$32 (\$49.50). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Revere Curvomatic S-200, \$16.50; Keystone Model D-18, \$14.95 (\$22.95); Paillard Bolex Trifilm, \$14.95 (\$19.50); Mansfield "Little Gem," \$5.95; Mansfield "Holiday" Auto Splicer, \$6.95 (\$8.50); Cine-Kodak Junior Splicer, \$2.45 (\$3.15). **ACCEPTABLE—POOR:** Accura Automatic, \$7.95; Sears Tower Economy Splicer Cat. No. 8625, \$5.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Tower Economy Splicer Cat. No. 3435, \$6.95 incl. shipping); Compco Model 1402, \$7.95 (\$12.95); Mansfield "Junior" Splicer, \$2.95 (\$3.95).

#### EDITORS

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓Craig Projecto-Editor Model KE-8, \$79.50 incl. carrying case (\$106); ✓Kalart Editor-Viewer 8, \$39.50 (\$54); ✓Bell & Howell 148A Editor, \$122.50 (\$170.45). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Baia "Challenger" Editor, \$44.95 (\$49.95). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Compco 1400 Super Editor, \$49.95 (\$69.95). **ACCEPTABLE—POOR:** Mansfield "Senior" Editor, \$22.50 (\$29.95); Mansfield Deluxe Editor Model P-950, \$45 incl. carrying case (\$49.95); Mansfield "Holiday" Editor Model 608, \$64.50 incl. carrying case (\$69.95).



#### ORANGE JUICE

653

Sixty-six brands tested—41 frozen concentrate (priced from 19¢ to 27¢ for 6 oz.), 21 canned (17¢ to 24¢ for 18 oz.), four chilled (37¢ to 45¢ for 1 qt.). All were tested for flavor, color, and absence of defects; each brand was judged only within its type. Also compared were certain physical and chemical characteristics, including sugar concentration, acidity, peel oil in juice, appearance of juice when ready to drink, and vitamin C content. On the basis of CU's purchases at the time of the tests, frozen juice averaged 3.7¢ per 4-oz. serving; canned, 4.5¢; chilled, 5.2¢. (Fresh home-squeezed juice, which to most people tastes better than any of these, can cost as much as 50% more per serving than the frozen concentrate, as indicated by Government data.) Overall, CU felt that frozen concentrate offered the greatest convenience and value, though chilled juice might be worth its extra cost if truly fresh—which it rarely is. Chilled brands are not listed because they vary considerably in quality from week to week. Listed by types; within types by groups in order of estimated overall quality; within groups, alphabetically.

#### FROZEN CONCENTRATED (prices are for 6-oz. can)

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓A & P, 20¢; ✓Birds Eye, 24¢; Blossom, 21¢; ✓Cloverdale, 19¢; ✓Crosse & Blackwell, 23¢; ✓Cypress Gardens, 20¢; ✓Donald Duck, 23¢; ✓Ideal, 20¢; ✓Kroger, 21¢; Minute Maid, 25¢; ✓Minute Maid "New", 27¢; ✓Seald-Sweet, 21¢; ✓Stokely, 25¢; ✓Sunshine State, 22¢. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Adams, 25¢; Bel-Air, 25¢; Bluebird, 20¢; Dulany, 23¢; Flav-R-Pac, 23¢; Freshpak, 20¢; Golden Holly, 20¢; IGA, 20¢; Libby's, 23¢; National Orchard Fresh, 21¢; Pasco, 21¢; Pictsweet, 25¢; Red Owl, 20¢; Scotch Treat, 22¢; Shurfine, 22¢; Southern Sun, 22¢; Top Frost, 22¢; Treesweet, 24¢; Whole Sun, 21¢; Yor Garden, 21¢. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Ace High, 19¢; Dartmouth, 21¢; F.F., 21¢; Fairmont, 24¢; Floridagold, 21¢; Old South, 23¢; Snow Crop, 24¢.

#### CANNED (prices are for 18-oz. can)

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** Bordo, 19¢; Del Monte, 21¢; IGA, 23¢; Kroger, 20¢; Seald-Sweet, 20¢. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Adams, 17¢; Food Club, 20¢; Libby's, 22¢; Monarch, 22¢; Richelieu, 22¢; Shurfine, 20¢; Standby, 24¢; Sun Sip, 18¢; Town House, 20¢; Treesweet, 22¢. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** A & P, 18¢; Bluebird, 18¢; Cypress Gardens, 19¢; Donald Duck, 21¢; Full O'Gold, 18¢; Stokely's, 22¢.

#### ORANGES, ARTIFICIAL COLORING OF

444

A reader wrote in to ask why U.S.-grown oranges are artificially colored when those grown in Italy and Spain are not. CU explained that the latter are naturally orange when mature, while U.S. oranges often have a greenish tinge. CU then summarized the history of color additives as used by U.S. citrus growers, stressing efforts of the FDA to ban colors dangerous to health.

## OTOGEN "WONDER DRUG"

398, 620

Ever wary of advertising claims, CU cited some extravagant ones made by a Karachi, Pakistan laboratory for its proprietary drug, *Otogen*.

## OUTBOARD MOTORS

303

Four models tested in the 50-70 HP group, priced from \$850 to \$950. (Report included condensed Ratings of motors check-rated in 1958, and substantially unchanged for 1959, in four smaller groups: 5-6 HP, 10-12 HP, 18 HP, 45 HP.) All models tested primarily for speed and fuel economy—along with ability to operate at trolling speed, tendency toward cavitation in fast turns, and special features—on a 15-ft. runabout with light and heavy loads, a 17-ft. runabout with heavy loads, and a 22-ft. cabin cruiser with driver and two passengers. Listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE.** *Mercury Mark 75AE*, \$865 (\$1190); *Mercury Mark 78AE*, \$925 (\$1275); *Flying Scott 60*, \$950 (Model 6009E, \$1150); *Evinrude Starlite*, \$850 (\$1004).

## OVENS, TABLE-TOP

157

CU tested two models of small electric bake ovens—the *Munsey Baker 56* and the *Knapp-Monarch Redi-Baker 45-500C* (each \$24.95)—designed to do baking or warming-up chores at the dinner table. CU felt either might be useful for baking muffins, heating frozen foods, possibly cooking small cuts of meat—but each, by its design, offered an actual or potential shock hazard. Rating on both: Not Acceptable.

# P

## PACKAGING PRACTICES, DECEPTIVE

434

Reprint of remarks by Dexter Masters, CU's Director, before the National Conference on Weights and Measures (June, Washington, D. C.). Main points: upon weights and measures provisions has rested, traditionally, the responsibility for giving buyer as well as seller legal equity in transactions involving determinations of quantity; today, however, many manufacturers seem to be evading these legal requirements via misleading packaging; two major evasions are the print of net weight in type so small as to be almost unreadable, and the use of containers of off-standard weight (e.g., 6¼ oz. to simulate a half-pound); aerosol packages present a range of new problems (e.g., does "net weight" mean product plus propellant?); legislation for standardized food-container sizes is urgently needed, as well as a law requiring clear, conspicuous net-weight labeling.

## PAINTS, FURNITURE

373 (C: 501)

Eleven brands of "quick-drying" high-gloss enamel tested, priced (in the New York City area) from \$1.79 plus shipping to \$2.97 per quart. Tested in the

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## Can't find a product?

*If you can't locate a report on a given product by name in this guide, try the category to which it belongs—for example, HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS, PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT, SPORTING GOODS, TELEVISION. If a report was published during the year, a reference to it will appear in the listing under the broad category to which it belongs.*

three best-selling shades—white, black, dark green—for application characteristics (brushing ease, drying time), appearance (leveling, sagging, gloss, color and gloss uniformity, whiteness of white, hiding power), resistance to wear and tear (ease of stain removal, scrubability, resistance to dry abrasion, impact, scratches, spotting, aging, and Weatherometer exposure) and keeping quality. Most brands were judged Good overall, but differed in suitability for specific jobs (e.g., use on toys and “knock-about” items, use in homes with toddlers, use outdoors). Lead content also was analyzed, and in most brands CU felt that manufacturers’ labeling (or lack of it) as to lead content could be trusted. Brands incorrectly labeled were noted as unsafe for use in homes with toddlers. Report included comparison tests of three brands of semi-gloss enamel previously judged for use as wall paints (July 1958), and of *Jet-Dri*, a newer enamel advertised as the “fastest-drying enamel made.” The latter proved faster drying than the other enamels tested and was rated Good overall, though least resistant to dry abrasion among the paints tested. Listed in order of estimated overall quality by groups, within groups, alphabetically. Prices are list for 1-qt. size in the NYC area.

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Du Pont Duco Gloss, \$2.97; Glidden, Japalac, \$2.79; Moore’s Impervo High Gloss, \$2.25; National Lead Dutch Boy, \$2.75; Patterson-Sargent BPS Super Glosfast, \$2.75; Pittsburgh Waterspar, \$2.73; Pratt & Lambert Effecto, \$2.61; Sears Master-Mixed Lead-Free Four Hour, \$1.79 plus shipping; Sherwin-Williams Enameloid, \$2.77; Wards Certified All-Purpose Siliconized, \$1.85 plus shipping. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** Devoe Mirrolac, \$2.75.

## **PANCAKE MIX, IMITATION BLUEBERRY**

**508**

CU noted the Food and Drug Administration’s action on two brands of so-called blueberry pancake mix, *Pillsbury’s* and *Duff’s*. Apprised that the “blueberries” in each were really purple pellets, made of sugar and other ingredients (including blueberry pulp), artificially colored and flavored, the FDA ordered both packages relabeled to eliminate the pictures of blueberries on them and to indicate that no real berries would be found inside.

## **PARASITIC DISEASES**

**326**

Discussion of the causes, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment (usually by drugs), and prevention of main types of parasitic infection which, though generally most prevalent in the tropics and thus of particular concern to travelers, are found in almost all parts of the world—including the U.S.

## **PEANUT SPREAD, JIF**

**511**

CU noted that in *Jif* peanut spread, advertised as “creamy smooth,” about half a cup of cooking fat was mixed into a pound of ground peanuts. As a result of products of this sort appearing on the market, the Food and Drug Administration urged a new standard: at least 95 per cent ground peanuts in peanut butter.

## **PERFUMES**

**575**

Sixteen brands tested. All were judged by expert perfume consultants, as well as by two consumer panels—one of men, one of women. Aim: to see whether, in these particular brands (all highly advertised and high priced except one), consumer reactions would agree with expert judgments. Listed by groups in order of overall quality as estimated by CU’s consultants, and alphabetically within groups. Prices are those paid by CU’s shoppers for the 1-oz. size, or calculated from the nearest available size (tax not included.) Letters following prices indicate consumer-panel reaction: D, significant majority disliked it; L, significant majority liked it; S, opinion sharply split.

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** *Mémoire Chérie*, \$21.25 (S). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** *Arpège*, \$23.50 (L); *Chanel No. 5*, \$20 (L); *Ecusson*, \$23.50 (S); *Flatterie*, \$16 (L); *L’Aimant*, \$18.75 (L); *Shalimar*, \$22.50 (S); *Trapèze*, \$25 (S). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR TO GOOD:** *Great Lady*, \$20 (S); *Je Reviens*, \$20 (L); *Lasso*, \$25 (D); *Memoires of Paris*, 77¢ (S); *Strategy*, \$15 (S); *Wind Song*, \$17.50 (S). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** *Réplique*, \$18 (L); *Seven Winds*, \$18.50 (S).

## **PERSONAL HEALTH RECORD, RECOMMENDATION FOR**

**263**

CU’s medical consultants worked out a personal health-record form (printed

with the report) and urged everyone to carry it. Spaces were provided for information on the bearer's name, address, age, etc., plus a record of his blood type, toxoid immunization, medical conditions, allergies, and drugs regularly taken—all useful, even critical, in case of accident or other emergency.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

see Cameras, 8mm, movie, auto-exposure; Cameras, still, auto-exposure; Cameras, subminiature; Cameras, 35mm (\$90 to \$190); Cameras, twin-lens reflex; Exposure meters, photoelectric; Movie splicers and editors

## PICKUPS AND PICKUP ARMS, STEREOPHONIC

126 (C: 333)

Twenty-two models of pickups tested (priced from \$10.80 to \$69.95) and nine models of pickup arms (priced from \$15.50 to \$47). Judged after controlled listening tests, laboratory measurements and examination, use of special test records and other devices, and tests for such characteristics as channel balance, distortion, and hum rejection. Among CU's conclusions: Most pickups tested caused too much sound distortion; most were so stiff and heavy that they would track well only at forces which would produce further distortion and record wear; most arms tested were neither so light nor well balanced as is desirable for stereo; notable exceptions were the two check-rated models—(see below), with the *Duotone GPS73SD* pickup a good buy for the economy-minded. Report included technical data on installing pickups and arms. Note: in view of the unusually rapid growth of the industry, it is likely that a number of the models listed may have changed since CU's tests, with or without changes in model numbers. Listed in order of estimated overall quality for use in a high-fidelity system.

### STEREO PICKUPS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓ *Shure M3D*, \$45 (\$60); *Grado Stereo*, \$49.50 (\$62); *Duotone GPS73SD*, \$14.70 (*Acos GPS73SD*, \$14.70); *Electro-Voice 21MD*, \$19.50 (\$27.50); *Electro-Voice 26MDST*, \$22.50 (\$31.50); *Fairchild 232*, \$49.50 (\$69.50); *Columbia SC-1*, \$24.25. **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (unsatisfactory performance characteristics; in alphabetical order): *Astatic 13TBX*, \$16.50 (\$13.05); *Duotone GPS71-1D*, \$18.75 (*Acos GPS71-1D*, \$18.75); *Electro-Sonic C-100 Stereo*, \$69.95 (\$69.95); *Electro-Voice 66DS* and *PT-3* mount, \$11.70 (\$17.35); *General Electric Golden Classic GC-7*, \$23.95 (\$27.75); *General Electric GC-5*, \$26.95 (\$31); *Miracord ST-200 Stereotwin*, \$44.50 (\$39.95); *Pickering 371*, \$29.85 (\$39.10); *Pickering 196 Unipoise Pickup—Pickup arm assembly*, \$59.85 (\$78.40); *Recoton 745-3SD*, \$29.95 (\$29.95); *Ronette BE-40D*, \$10.80 (\$11.25); *Ronette Stereo OV/D*, \$11.20 (\$11.75); *Sonotone 8T4-SD*, \$24.50 (\$14.70); *Webster-Electric SC1-D*, \$24.50 (\$32.35); *Webster-Electric SC3-D*, \$25 (\$28.50).

### STEREO PICKUP ARMS

**ACCEPTABLE.** ✓ *ESL S1000 Gyro-Balance*, \$34.95 (\$34.95); *General Electric TM-2G*, \$29.95 (\$34.50); *Rek-O-Kut S120* \$27.95 (\$37.75); *Rek-O-Kut S160*, \$30.95 (\$41.75); *Grado Stereo 12*, \$29.95 (\$41.50); *Fairchild 282*, \$47 (\$59.50); *Audax KT-16*, \$18.50 (\$24.95). **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** *Audax KT-12*, \$15.50 (\$20.95) (high inertia, tracking error, unbalanced arm); *Gray 212 SP*, \$34 (\$41) (high pivot friction and inertia).

## PLANT BAGS, PLASTIC

53

Transparent plastic bags offer a way to eliminate the need to water potted plants when the householder is away. Water the plant normally, then tie the bag over it. Testing *Plastic Plant Bags* (18 for \$1 to 6 for \$1, depending on size), CU found that plants so treated remained alive and apparently un-

## CU reports list price . . .

. . . in brand ratings to help identify models. But discounts from list prices ranging from 10 to 40 per cent are generally available for such products as large and small electric appliances, cameras, ranges, radios, TV sets, and tires. Shop for these discounts.



damaged for three weeks. The limited range of bag sizes was a drawback, but CU found that the plastic bags used by dry-cleaners also worked well.

## **PLASTIC BAGS**

see Bags, Plastic, Danger of

## **POLIO SHOTS, RECOMMENDATION FOR**

**210**

With the 1959 polio season nearing, CU urged anyone not yet immunized against polio to start the shots immediately.

## **POLO SHIRTS, BOYS'**

**469**

Twelve brands tested, priced from \$1.10 plus shipping to \$1.98. All cotton-knit, crew-neck models. Worn 11 weeks by boys six to twelve years old, then laboratory-examined for results of wear and laundering (stretching, shrinking, seam failures, elbow wear, fraying at neck and cuffs, fading and running of colors) and rated primarily on dimensional stability (ability to retain original size and shape), plus wear properties and colorfastness. Listed in order of estimated overall quality. Except for mail-order brands, prices are averages of those paid by CU's shoppers.

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓McGregor Wee Pinson, \$1.98. **ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓McKem, \$1.98; ✓Munsingwear 4114, \$1.73. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Flight Club, \$1.13; Donmoor Superfine 930R, \$1.98. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Wards Royal Oak Cat. No. 33B 585, \$1.25 plus shipping; Sears Boyville Cat. No. 4245, \$1.10 plus shipping; Tom Sawyer 1100 series, \$1.65; Penney, \$1.19; Robert Bruce Lot 107, \$1.98; Fruit of the Loom, \$1.11; Tam O'Shanter 6274, \$1.84.

## **POTATOES, INSTANT MASHED**

**466**

Nine brands tested. All prepared by home economists according to label directions, then judged on appearance, flavor, texture, and ease of preparation. Listed by groups in order of estimated overall quality, and alphabetically within groups. Prices are averages paid by CU's shoppers and, except as noted, are for 8-serving sizes.

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** Borden's, 34¢; Pillsbury, 36¢. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Fluffy, 34¢; French's, 34¢; Goodman's, 31¢; Minute, 28¢; Shasta, 16¢ (4 servings). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** I-Da-Ho, 28¢; Tater Flakes, 49¢ (12 servings).

## **POULTRY INSPECTION AND LABELING**

**381**

Comment on the Poultry Products Inspection Act, which went into effect January 1, 1959. On that date, all poultry processed in plants that ship in interstate commerce became subject to inspection by a Federal inspector before and after slaughter; the law also provided for setting of sanitary standards in such plants, and proper labeling of inspected birds. CU felt the law should be more emphatic in requiring pre-slaughter inspection of live birds, and in banning New York-dressed (not eviscerated); CU also questioned certain exemptions from the law. Calling the law a big first step in closing one of the worst gaps in the protection of the wholesomeness of our food supply, CU pointed out that a big problem remained with processors who do not ship in interstate commerce, and that state laws were needed to require inspection of poultry processed by them.

## **PREGNANCY, NUTRITIONAL NEEDS IN**

**545**

Discussion of diet during pregnancy as a possible road to further reductions in maternal and infant mortality. Main points: proper diet is very important; the National Research Council has set up basic allowances for this purpose; special "health foods" or multiple vitamin-mineral mixtures are of no value to the normal mother and child.

## **PREMIUM OFFERS**

**595**

Discussion of premium values. In 1959, more than 1500 self-liquidators, premiums for which the consumer sends in money as well as box tops, were offered by advertisers of branded merchandise. A CU shopper sent in for 50

such premiums offered in the first week of April. It took more than two weeks for more than half the orders to be filled; eight items took more than four weeks; five took 10 weeks or more; one had not arrived after six months. Only 15 of the 50 offers were judged to represent good values; 16 were questionable, the rest poor or worse. CU's conclusion: premium offers are a doubtful bargain.

### PRICE FIXING

see "Fair Trade," Federal law for; Foam-rubber mattresses (anti-trust action); Shavers, electric, men's (price discussion); Supreme Court and the consumer; Vacuum cleaners (price discussion)

### PROTEINS

611

Discussion of current advertising emphasis on "high-protein" foods (or even those containing "high-quality" or "improved" protein) in light of protein's real role in nutrition. Key points: there actually are many proteins, each a combination of roughly 12-20 simpler substances called amino acids; these acids are broken down in the digestive tract, distributed to the body tissues, and reassembled according to immediate need; to build a protein, the body must have all necessary amino acids available at the same time (otherwise the acids go into energy and fat); most Americans eat a variety of protein foods (best overall sources are animal foods: meat, fish, milk, eggs) and need have only an academic interest in the protein quality of any one food; most Americans also eat enough protein for all normal needs. Report noted that the FDA was concerned over the increased claims for protein foods, but needed additional legal authority to crack down effectively on false or misleading claims in advertising and labeling.

## R

### RADIO-RECEIVER KITS

63

Seven models tested—two for building tube sets, five for transistor portables—priced from \$12.96 to \$30.45 plus shipping. Judged on ease of assembly and on performance compared with regular portable radios of comparable size. Among CU's conclusions: even the best-performing set was only Fair compared with the regular portables tested by CU in 1958; though assembling these sets required handling tiny components in very tight quarters, the instructions that came with the *Heathkit* and the *Acceptable Allied Knight* were clear and detailed enough for even an inexperienced person to follow; any of the sets could be put together by a reasonably handy person in roughly 12 to 24 working hours. Listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** *Heathkit XR-1P*, \$29.95 plus shipping; *Allied Knight Cat. No. 83Y771*, \$25.95 plus shipping. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** *Lafayette Cat. No. KT-119A*, \$30.45 plus shipping. **ACCEPTABLE—POOR:** *Philmore TR-22*, \$12.96; *Philmore TR-44*, \$24.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (shock hazard): *Allied Knight Cat. No. 83Y736*, \$16.95 plus shipping; *Lafayette "Arkay" 2X4-A Cat. No. KT58*, \$26.75 plus shipping.

### RADIOS, SMALL TRANSISTOR

598

Thirty-six models tested—12 "miniatures" (priced from \$29.95 to \$49.95), 24 pocket/personal size (\$28.95 plus shipping to \$75). Most of the former and two of the latter were Japanese-made; one pocket set was made in Holland. CU found no evidence that foreign manufacture per se was either worse or better than domestic, though some foreign transistors are not interchangeable with U.S. ones and might be inconvenient to replace. All sets were judged on speech intelligibility in noisy surroundings (most miniatures were unintelligible more than four feet away; most larger sets, more than six feet away), tone quality in quiet surroundings (sets rated Good were about on a par with CU's Fair criteria for table models), sensitivity, selectivity, interference rejection, and automatic volume control (AVC). Battery and operating costs also were compared, along with tuning devices and other convenience features. All models tested had earphone jacks and most offered earphones as optional extras. Report included advice on judging any radio not listed here (e.g., listen to it on a busy street; compare its tone with that of other sets; see

whether it uses standard batteries or special types; make sure the store will arrange for repair if necessary). Listed in order of estimated overall quality. Letter "M" after model name indicates "miniature."

**ACCEPTABLE:** Motorola 8X26E, \$54.95 (\$84.95); Zenith Royal "500-D", \$75 (\$99.50); RCA Victor T-1EH, \$34.95 (Model P339, \$44.95) **BEST BUY:** Motorola X12A-1, \$39.95; Emerson 888 Vanguard \$44; Westinghouse H-697P7, \$39.95 (\$54.95); Zenith Royal 250Y, \$39.95 (\$56.95); Bulova 660, \$69.95; Sony TR-86, (M), \$49.95 (\$59.95); Westinghouse H-694P8, \$54.95; General Electric P785-A, \$49.95; Crown TR 610, \$49.95 (\$47.50); Sears Silvertone Cat. No. 212, \$26.95 plus shipping (\$57.95 incl. shipping); Norelco LIX75T, \$49.95 (Philips 1X75, \$49.95); General Electric P745B, \$39.95; Channel Master 6501, (M), \$34.95; Sylvania TP12, \$44.95 (\$49.95); Hoffman Trans Solar CP706, \$59.95; Sony TR-610, (M), \$39.95 (\$49.95); Roland TR7, \$49.95 (Model TW7, \$59.95); Toshiba 8TM-294, \$48.95 (\$49.95); Hi-Delity TS-650 (M), \$39.95 (\$39.95); Philco T-60, \$34.95 (\$49.95); Packard Bell 6RT-2, \$29.95; Toshiba 6TP-314 (M), \$39.95 (\$39.95); Bulova 292, \$42.50; Admiral 703, \$44.95 (\$59.95); Continental TR-300 (M), \$49.95; Admiral 711, \$54.95 (\$69.95); Philco T-50, (M), \$34.95; Hitachi TH-666, (M), \$39.95; True-tone DC-3052, (M), \$29.95; Continental TR-182, (M), \$39.95; Crown TR-400, (M), \$29.95; Majestic "Starlet", (M), \$39.95; Emerson 555V, \$28.

## RADIOS, TRANSISTOR, PORTABLE AND CLOCK

368

Twenty-seven "handbag-size" models of portable radios (priced from \$29.95 to \$79.95) and four models of clock radios (priced from \$68 to \$85) were tested. All used transistors (no tubes), which are very light, take very little battery current. Judged mainly on speech intelligibility in noisy surroundings and tone quality in quiet surroundings, along with sensitivity, selectivity, interference rejection, and automatic volume control. Antennas, dials, and carrying handles also compared; handles of three sets were judged likely to break, making those sets Not Acceptable. Though the clock radios were portable (thanks to transistors and battery-driven clocks), they cost more and, in CU's opinion, offered less convenience than the regular tube-type using house current. Listed by types in order of estimated overall quality.

### PORTABLE RADIOS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Zenith Royal 750L, \$79.95 (\$115.50); ✓RCA 1-BT-5, \$65; ✓General Electric P-770, \$49.95 (\$69.95); ✓Philco T-78, \$59.95; ✓Zenith Royal 700L, \$69.95 (\$97.50); Arvin 9562, \$79.95; Arvin 9574, \$59.95; General Electric P-795, \$39.95 (\$59.95); Philco T-700, \$49.95; Westinghouse 621P6, \$59.95; Philco T-75, \$49.95; (\$69.95); Sonic TR-88, \$44.95; Roland 71-486, \$69.95; Wards Airline Cat. No. 1120L, \$46.95 plus shipping; Emerson 847, \$44; Philco T-65, \$39.95; Sears Silvertone Cat. No. 9222, \$42.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 9222D, \$58.95 incl. shipping); Arvin 9595, \$39.95; Sonic TR-66, \$34.95; Roland 71-484, \$54.95 (Model TL-7, \$69.95); Arvin 8584, \$49.95 Westinghouse 690P5, \$29.95 (\$44.95); Roland 61-482 (5TR), \$39.95; Arvin 7595, \$29.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (probability of handle failure; first two models following otherwise of check-rated quality): Admiral No. 742, \$54.95 (Model 742X, \$69.95); Admiral No. 751, \$64.95 (Model 751X, \$79.95); Admiral No. 739, \$39.95 (Model 739X, \$54.95).

### CLOCK RADIOS

**ACCEPTABLE.** Admiral 811, \$75 (Model 811X, \$99.95); Westinghouse 685P8, \$75 (\$89.95); Zenith Royal 850, \$85 incl. batteries (\$125); Emerson 888 Transtimer II, \$68 incl. batteries.

## Page numbers, by months

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**RAMBLER AMERICAN AND AUSTIN A55 FOR 1959****484**

Road-test results, with Facts and Figures, on a "compact" U.S. car with overdrive and a comparable British car. For Rambler Rating, see AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1959.

**RAMBLER SIX FOR 1959****37**

Individual road-test report, with Facts and Figures. For Rating, see AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1959.

**RECORD REVIEWS****144, 266, 386, 498, 614, 678**

Critical evaluations of current classical recordings in monophonic and stereophonic versions. Aim: to meet a broad range of taste, with musical interest always paramount. The December report (p. 678) saluted 10 years of long-playing records and included a listing of what CU's critic termed "10 outstanding releases of the 1950-60 decade," listed here by composer, title, and label: **Bach:** *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Victor LM 6801. **Bach:** *Complete Organ Music*, Decca Archive ARC 3013/30. **Bartok:** *Six String Quartets*, Columbia ML 4278/80. **Beethoven:** *Sixteen String Quartets*, Columbia SL 172/74. **Beethoven:** *Nine Symphonies*, Victor LM 6901. **Chopin:** *Mazurkas, complete*, Victor LM 6109. **Haydn:** *Symphonies 93-98*, Capitol GCR 7127. **Mozart:** *Le Nozze di Figaro*, London A 4407 (stereo, OSA 1402). **Wagner:** *Das Rheingold*, London A 4340 (stereo, OSA 1309). **Webern:** *Complete Works*, Columbia K4L 232.

**REDUCING AIDS, DRUGS AND DEVICES****612**

CU commented favorably on action by two Federal agencies to curb false and misleading advertising of so-called reducing aids. 1) The Post Office, testing phenylpropanolamine (the active drug in several widely promoted products), found it not effective as an appetite depressant in the management of obesity. 2) The Food and Drug Administration, acting on the Post Office's findings, seized or halted shipments of some products. More important, in CU's eyes, the FDA undertook a public-information campaign to warn weight-conscious consumers that there is no "simple, safe and sane food, drug or device which will bring about loss of body weight," but that "unscrupulous promoters" are offering everything from "worthless pills, potions, freak diets, mechanical gadgets" to "cigarettes and chewing gum with label claims for weight reducing."

**REELS, FLY-FISHING****256**

Seven new models, priced from \$4.95 to \$95, purchased, examined but not field-tested. Report noted individual features and compared constructions (e.g., six reels had one-piece housings, but the *Fin-Nor's* was held together by tiny screws that might work loose and get lost; spools on all models were easily removed and replaced without tools; all models except the *Landex* and *Supereux* were free of projections that might foul the line; the costly *Fin-Nor's* one outstanding feature was judged to be its smooth drag of extremely wide range). The seven reels in alphabetical order:

*Airex Meisselbach Ablette* No. 370, \$4.95; and No. 377, \$12.95; *Fin Nor* No. 1, \$95; *Johnson Magnetic Model* No. 5, \$32.50; *Garcia-Landex* 3½" MW, Cat. No. 1421, \$25; *Garcia-Pridex Lightweight* 3½" LW, Cat. No. 1402, \$21.75; *Pfueger Supereux Automatic* No. 755, \$13.50.

**REFRIGERATORS, ELECTRIC AND GAS****456**

Twenty-eight models tested—14 refrigerator-freezers (priced from \$299.95 to \$529.95), 14 conventional refrigerators (priced from \$199.95 to \$329.95). All tested at controlled outside temperatures for performance factors—maintaining temperature in main space and freezer, use of electricity, cycling frequency, running time, behavior with high humidity and frequent door-opening—and compared for noisiness and convenience, including special features (adjustable, sliding or swing-out shelves, ice-making devices, defrost mechanisms, foot pedals, magnetic door latches, etc.). Project also included two other types of refrigerator. Gas units, long moribund, were essaying a comeback; CU tested two RCA Whirlpool models—the \$649.95 EGM-11T refrigerator-freezer (\$849) and the \$379.95 EGC-9 conventional refrigerator (\$529), rating the former Conditionally Acceptable (because of relatively poor performance at outside temperatures above 90°F) and the latter Not Acceptable (for still poorer performance). Second special type was "no-frost" electric refrigerator-freezers; CU tested two \$699.95 models, Frigidaire "Frost-Proof" FP-142-59 (\$907.95) and General Electric "Combination Automatic Defrost

BG-15S, and found that both did avoid frost formation in the freezer compartment, thanks to "behind-the-wall" cooling systems; the periodic temperature rise occurring during the defrost cycle might ultimately affect the quality of (though not spoil) some stored foods. Listed by types, in order of estimated overall quality.

#### REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** ✓Frigidaire "Imperial" FI-122-59, \$479.95 (Model FI-122C-59, \$604.95); ✓Westinghouse "Frost-Free" TDM-13, \$479.95 (Model TDM-13, \$479.95, similar but not identical); ✓General Electric "Combination" BH-12S, \$479.95 (\$599); ✓Hotpoint 129EW12, \$499.95; ✓AMC "Custom XXV" TAC149, \$299.95 at retail in NYC (about \$400); ✓Gibson GT-159EO, \$399.95; ✓Kelvinator K78J-13, \$479.95; Wards "Tru-Cold" Cat. No. 1389, \$359.95 plus shipping; Norge "Customatic" CTS-913, \$479.95 (\$599.95). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD TO FAIR:** Philco RD-1494, \$519.95 (\$579.95); Wizard 2JC1906, \$344.95; RCA-Whirlpool FS-13T, \$449.95; Sears "Coldspot" Cat. No. 9450W, \$349.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears "Coldspot" N14E, \$549.95 incl. shipping). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Admiral "Imperial Dual-Temp" 14M65, \$529.95 (\$619.95).

#### CONVENTIONAL REFRIGERATORS

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** ✓Frigidaire "Deluxe" D-11-59, \$259.95 (Model D-11C-59, \$342.95); ✓Wards "Tru-Cold" Cat. No. 1249R, \$229.95 plus shipping; ✓Norge D-911, \$199.95; Kelvinator "Automatic" K74J-12, \$299.95; Westinghouse "Supreme" DM-11, \$244.95 (Model DM-11, similar but not identical); Hotpoint 129EB11, \$259.95; AMC A149, \$229.95 at retail in NYC (about \$300); General Electric LAS-12S, \$259.95; Gibson GD-123EO, \$249.95; Philco RS-1190, \$259.95 (\$339.95). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD TO FAIR:** RCA-Whirlpool FC-12, \$259.95; Sears "Coldspot" Cat. No. 9230W, \$254.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears "Coldspot" N12C, \$329.95 incl. shipping). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Wizard 2JC1901, \$199.95; Admiral "Auto-Defrost" 11CA50, \$329.95 (Model 11CA50A, \$344.95).

#### "NO-FROST" REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Frigidaire "Frost-Proof" FP-142-59, \$699.95 (\$907.95); General Electric "Combination Automatic Defrost Freezer" BG-15S, \$699.95.

#### RENAULT DAUPHINE AND SIMCA ELYSEE

659

Road-test results, with Facts and Figures, on two current \$1500-\$1900 imported sedans. CU found substantial merits in both makes, but overall still ranked the Volkswagen (previously reported) higher than either.

#### RENAULT 4CV AND NSU PRINZ

608

Road-test results, with Facts and Figures, on two current under-\$1500 imported sedans. Of the two, CU preferred the Renault overall but ranked the Fiat 600 (previously reported) above both.

#### RETRACTABLE LINE AND CORD, CORDOMATIC

100

Compared to regular clotheslines and electrical extension cords, the retractable Cordomatics are less unsightly, less hazardous, but more expensive. Each type—line or cord—comes coiled on a reel inside a metal housing and can be pulled out as far as desired up to its maximum length (20 ft., \$3.98, or 40 ft., \$6.95, for the clothesline; the 20 ft. extension cord cost \$7.95 with three-outlet receptacle, or \$8.95 with single receptacle and worklight). CU tested both, found the Cordomatic clothesline somewhat awkward to handle and the Cordomatic extension cord's 22 in. power-line wire to reach an outlet rather short, but judged both a definite convenience for those willing to put up with their limitations and their relatively high cost-per-foot as compared with their regular counterparts.

#### RIFLES, AIR AND GAS

634

Twenty-one models tested—thirteen spring air-rifles (priced from \$15.95 to \$85), three pump-up air rifles (\$21.50 to \$31.50), five CO<sub>2</sub> rifles (\$14.94 plus shipping to \$29.95). All were tested for group accuracy at 15 and 25 yds. Trigger pull characteristics were noted, along with sighting equipment and special features. Report stated that smaller-caliber (.177) spring rifles probably are best for indoor target shooting, while heavier caliber models generally are better for outdoor target and small-game shooting; pump-up rifles are slower to use, but the shooter has the control of power desired; CO<sub>2</sub> models

are more expensive to shoot, but require no pumping or spring compressing. Report also noted that these rifles are not toys and should not be so treated. Listed in groups by type of action; within groups, except as noted, in order of estimated overall quality.

#### SPRING AIR-RIFLES

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Walther Mod. LG55M, \$74.95 (\$56), .177 cal.; ✓Peerless Mod. 50M, \$85, .22 cal.; ✓Webley Mark 3, (\$55-\$45), .177 cal., \$55, .22 cal.; Peerless Mod. 35, \$35, .22 cal.; Walther Mod. LG51Z, \$39.95 (\$29), .177 cal. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Two models judged of approximately equal overall quality and listed in order of increasing price: BSF Media, \$28.50 in .177 cal., \$29.75 in .22 cal.; Hy-Score Mod. 807, \$38.95 in .177 cal., \$38.95 in .22 cal. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Three models judged of approximately equal overall quality and listed in order of increasing price: Bavaria 30, \$17.75 in .177 cal.; BSF Mod. S60, \$29.75 in .177 cal., \$31.75 in .22 cal.; BSF Standard, \$49.75 in .177 cal., \$49.75 in .22 cal.; Hy-Score Mod. 801, \$27.95, .177 cal., \$27.95 in .22 cal. **CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTABLE** (large pellet groups at longer ranges; Acceptable for use at shorter ranges only): Hy-Score Mod. 806, \$18.50, .177 cal.; Falke Mod. 40, \$15.95, .177 cal.

#### PUMP-UP AIR-RIFLES

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Sheridan, \$31.50 (\$31.45), .20 cal. also called 5mm. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** "Benjamin Franklin" No. 317, \$23.95 (\$26.95), .177 cal. **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (poor performance): Crosman "147", \$21.50 (\$26.30), .177 cal.; Crosman "140", \$21.50, .22 cal.

#### CO.-RIFLES

**ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Crosman "167" Pellgun, \$29.95 (\$35.60), .177 cal.; Crosman "160", \$29.95, .22 cal.; Benjamin 77 Carbine No. 367, \$18.95 (\$26.95), .177 cal. **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (all could be shot accidentally while being cocked): Crosman "187" Pellgun, \$18.95 (\$24.40), .177 cal.; Crosman "180", \$18.95, .22 cal.; Crosman "400" Repeater, \$27.45 (\$32.20), .22 cal.; Sears J. C. Higgins Cat. No. 283, \$14.94 plus shipping, .22 cal.

#### RIFLES, VARMINT

480

Twelve models tested—one .219 Zipper caliber (\$80), four .222 Remington caliber (priced from \$58.50 to \$145), seven .243 Winchester caliber (priced from \$99 to \$198). All tested primarily for accuracy in varmint shooting under standard conditions; in the course of the tests, trigger-pulls and stocks were checked. Also judged were features: adaptability to scope sights, pistol grip, presence of sling swivels, convenience in loading single cartridges, tendency to deform cartridge cases. Listed by caliber in order of estimated overall quality.

#### .222 CALIBER

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Sako "Heavy Barrel" Model L-46, \$145 (\$155). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** B.S.A. "Regent", \$134.75 (\$134.95); Remington Model 722A, \$95.25 (\$105.50). **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (relatively poor accuracy): Savage Model 340 C, \$58.50 (\$63.40); Marlin Model 336 Micro-Groove Zipper, .219 Zipper cal., \$80 (\$86.95).

#### .243 CALIBER

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Winchester Model 70 "Varmint", \$143.95 (\$158.15). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** The Coltsman Deluxe, \$159.50 (\$185); Wards Western Field Cat. No. 762M, \$99 plus shipping; Husqvarna Model 4043, \$139.95 (\$139); F. N. Deluxe Mauser, \$150 (\$164.75); Savage Model 110 MC, \$112.50 (\$121.15). **ACCEPTABLE—POOR:** Mannlicher-Schoenauer Model RS-243, \$198 (\$230).

## S

#### SALT AND WATER IN THE BODY

439

Discussion of the place of salts (chiefly sodium and potassium) and water in body chemistry. Theme: Maintenance of the body's salt-and-water balance is complex and delicate, handled by the kidneys with the help of two hormones, vasopressin and aldosterone. Heavy sweating and certain diseases may reduce the salt-and-water content dangerously, but in most cases replacement of the lost substances restores the balance. Conversely, abnormal

## Before 1959 . . .

*Summaries of a number of 1958 reports—specially selected because the information provided still is generally valid and of widespread interest—begin on page 59.*

retention of salt and water generally calls for a low-sodium diet. CU's key hot-weather conclusion for the normal, healthy person: unless you are engaged in exceptionally hot or strenuous activity, causing exceptional perspiration, you do not need salt tablets.

### SANDERS, ELECTRIC, PORTABLE

246 (C: 549)

Thirty models tested—24 with rotary motors, six with vibrator motors—priced from \$9.66 plus shipping to \$64.95. All were finishing sanders—the most popular type, and most suitable for the home craftsman. Tested primarily for speed of wood removal; the fastest model removed 27 grams of clear pine in 10 minutes, the slowest 3 grams. (All saved considerable effort over hand sanding, which removed about 5 grams in 10 minutes.) Also judged on convenience features—handling ease, switch type and location, ease of changing abrasive paper, weight, cord length—along with quality of construction, durability, and ease of maintenance. Among CU's conclusions: The best-performing sanders usually cost the most; under-\$30 models were slower, had fewer features, but should be useful to the less serious do-it-yourselfer; for occasional light sanding, some under-\$15 models with simple (but slow) vibrator-type motors might serve. Report included judgments on two different types of sanders—one belt, one disc—tested for comparison. Listed by types, within types by groups according to speed of wood removal, and within groups in order of estimated overall quality.

#### ROTARY-MOTOR SANDERS

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY FAST WOOD REMOVAL:** ✓Porter Cable 127, \$64.95 (\$84.50); ✓Porter Cable 106A, \$49.95 (\$65); ✓Skil 592, \$49.95 (\$62.50). **FAST WOOD REMOVAL:** Mall 25, \$49.95 (\$59.95); Wizard 5H1141, \$38.95; Black and Decker U-44 Model 1, \$39.95 (\$47.50). **FAIRLY FAST WOOD REMOVAL:** Pet 200, \$39.50 (\$49.50); Sioux RC-1850, \$52.50 (\$63); Sunbeam 188, \$47.50, (\$59.50); Sunbeam 74, \$37.50 (\$44.50); Shopmate 280B, \$24.95 (\$31.95). **MEDIUM FAST WOOD REMOVAL:** The first two models following are rated **BEST BUYS** if maximum speed is not required: Thor 15R, \$27.95 (\$32.95); Wizard 5H1138, \$24.95. Stanley H36A, \$54.95 (\$65); Wards Cat. No. 8555, \$39.95 plus shipping. **FAIRLY SLOW WOOD REMOVAL:** Millers Falls 580, \$39.95 (\$47.95); Dormeyer 5-4100, \$39.95 (\$49.55); Cummins 476, \$49.95 (\$58.95); Speedway 14, about \$18.50 (about \$27); Wizard 5H1137, \$20.50. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Electro-Sander E-330, \$29.95 (low overall quality); Manning Bowman 1253, \$47.95 (\$62.35) (poor construction); Speedway 18, about \$23 (about \$33) (poor motor durability); Thor 16, \$42.95 (\$49.94) (poor motor durability).

#### VIBRATOR-MOTOR SANDERS

**ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY SLOW WOOD REMOVAL:** Sears Cat. No. 2713, \$9.66 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears 23400, \$12.95 incl. shipping). **CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTABLE** (could not be grounded; should not be used under wet or damp conditions, poor wood removal): Wen 202, \$13.95 (\$16.95); Wizard 5H1143, \$13.85; Wards Cat. No. 8519, \$11.95 plus shipping. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Dremel B, \$14.85 (\$17.85) (shock hazard); Weller 700, \$16.95 (\$20.95) (short-circuit hazard).

### SCALES, BATHROOM

18

Thirty-seven tested, priced from \$3.90 plus shipping to \$39.95. Tested primarily for accuracy and reliability. Check-rated models were accurate to within 1 lb. over their entire range; all models were adequate for noting significant changes or long-range trends in weight. Scales also tested for use on carpet (those with relatively rigid construction were best), and dials judged for ease of reading and of adjusting to zero. Except as noted, listed in order of decreasing quality.

**ACCEPTABLE.** ✓Health-O-Meter Model 130, \$39.95 (\$51.95); ✓Health-O-Meter



Model 134, \$24.95 (\$31.95). The following 35 models, less accurate and less reliable, in order of increasing price: *Sears Harmony House* Cat. No. 7672, \$3.90 plus shipping (*Simpsons-Sears Harmony House* 7672, \$4.99 incl. shipping); *Sears Harmony House* Cat. No. 7651, \$3.98 plus shipping (*Simpsons-Sears Harmony House* 7651, \$5.99 incl. shipping); *Wards Good Scale* Cat. No. 1053, \$4.29 plus shipping; *Chatham Model* 508, \$4.95 (*Teco* 508, \$4.95); *Chatham Model* 580H, \$5.29 (*Teco* 580H, \$5.95); *Wards Easy-Lift Scale* Cat. No. 1051, \$5.49 plus shipping; *Sears Harmony House* Cat. No. 7654, \$6.90 plus shipping (*Simpsons-Sears Harmony House* 7654, \$9.98 incl. shipping); *Counselor "Value Leader" Model* 222, \$6.95 (\$8.95); *Health-O-Meter Model* 101, \$6.95 (\$8.95); *Wards Best "Lift" Scale* Cat. No. 1052, \$7.45 plus shipping; *Sears Harmony House Lumalite* Cat. No. 7655, \$7.90 plus shipping (*Simpsons-Sears Harmony House Lumalite* 7655, \$11.98 incl. shipping); *Borg Model* 8124C, \$7.95 (\$10.95); *Counselor "Capri" Model* 600, \$7.95; *Counselor "Century" Model* 900, \$7.95 (\$10.95); *Detecto Model* 709, \$7.95 (*Detecto* 709 and *Teco* 709, \$10.98); *Hanson Model* 600, \$7.95 (\$10.95); *Health-O-Meter Model* 107, \$7.95 (\$10.45); *Health-O-Meter Model* 111, \$7.95 (\$10.45); *Universal Model* 1005-B, \$7.95; *Borg Model* 4124C, \$8.95 (\$12.50); *Detecto Model* 790H, \$8.95 (*Detecto* 790H and *Teco* 790H, \$12.32); *Health-O-Meter Model* 117, \$8.95 (\$11.95); *Sears Harmony House Lumalite* Cat. No. 7656, \$9.80 plus shipping (*Simpsons-Sears Harmony House Lumalite* 7656, \$13.98 incl. shipping); *Counselor "Star-Lite" Model* 609, \$9.95 (\$13.95); *Health-O-Meter Model* 81, \$9.95 (\$12.95); *Wards Deluxe Scale* Cat. No. 1080, \$10.50 plus shipping; *Borg Model* 4224, \$10.95 (\$15); *Health-O-Meter Model* 87, \$10.95 (\$13.95); *Counselor "Premiere" Model* 750, \$11.95; *Counselor "Futura" Model* 700, \$12.95; *Borg "Flight" Model* 1524, \$12.95 (\$17.95); *Borg "Flight" Model* 1500, \$15 (\$21.95); *Borg "Strato Flight" Model* 1600, \$17.50 (\$25); *Borg Model* 1900, \$19.95 (\$27.50); *Counselor "Classic" Model* 1000, \$20 (\$27.95).

## SHAVERS, BATTERY-OPERATED, MEN'S

340

Two models tested: The *Lord Riam* (\$12.95) and the *Universal Cordless Electric Shaver* (\$16.95). Both received limited use-tests of the same type given electric shavers (below): the *Universal* was judged mediocre overall; the *Lord Riam*, poor. Though the batteries of either might last through several weeks' use, CU felt most men would find an ordinary safety razor more desirable.

## SHAVERS, ELECTRIC, MEN'S

299

Eight models tested, priced from \$13.95 plus shipping to \$29.95. Tested by a panel of 56 men who shaved daily with a pair of shavers (one for each side of the face), changing shavers weekly. Preference Ratings were based on reactions to nine performance factors: closeness, speed, lack of irritation, lack of pulling, long-hair effectiveness, trimming, under neck shaving, upper-lip shaving, quietness. No shaver was judged best in all factors nor in any single factor by all users—so the consumer was advised to request a free home trial before buying any model. Report included discussion of the shaver price picture with stress on recent list-price reductions for some models, continued discounting, and industry interest in "fair trade," i.e., price-fixing (see PRICE FIXING). Listed in order of overall preference by CU's test panel.

*Ronson CFL with Super Trim* No. 84401, \$20 (\$21.50); *Remington Roll-A-Matic Model* 659, \$29.95 (\$31.95); *Norelco Speedshaver* SC7900, \$24.95 (*Philishave Rotary Electric Shaver* SC7912, \$29.95); *Schick Powershave Model* 77, \$22.50 (\$24.50); *Bulova*, \$22.50 (\$34.75); *Sears Craftsman De Luxe* Cat. No. 9284, \$13.95 plus shipping; *Sunbeam Rollmaster Model* 333, \$23.50 (\$25.95); *Sunbeam Blade-Electric Shavemaster Model* 140, \$24.95 (*Models G and GZ*, \$26.50).

## SHERRY WINES

671

Ninety-eight brands tested—48 Spanish (priced from \$1.49 to \$6.79 per bottle), 50 domestic (\$1.07 to \$3.79). The former included the wines of seven major Spanish producers, plus private brands of four New York City stores (some sold also in some other cities); the domestic brands represented California, New York, and Ohio producers. All sherries tested were divided into three types—sweet or cream, intermediate, dry or cocktail—and judged by a panel of expert wine testers. Each wine was characterized as to various qualities (appearance, character, flavor, sweetness, body, defects) for its type, and assigned to one of four preference groups: I, Superior; II, Average; III, Below Average, but Not Poor; IV, Clearly Poor. The testers ranked all imports in



Groups I and II, while about two-thirds of the domestic brands fell into Groups III and IV. Listed by types; within types, by preference groups; within groups, except as noted, in order of increasing price (posted New York state minimum or price paid by CU in New York City) per bottle (usually  $\frac{1}{2}$  qt. or close to it, unless otherwise indicated). Store names are given in parentheses for the four private store brands.

#### SWEET OR CREAM SHERRIES

**GROUP I, SUPERIOR:** Sandringham Gran Jerez Solera Cream (Gimbel's), \$2.19; Wisdom and Warter Golden Cream (Sherry's), \$2.49; York House Estrella Cream (Macy's), \$3.49; Williams and Humbert Canasta Cream, \$4.85; Williams and Humbert Cream, \$5.89; Harvey's Bristol Milk, \$5.97; Pedro Domecq Celebration Cream, \$6.59; Gonzalez, Byass Diamond Jubilee Cream, \$6.69; Harvey's Bristol Cream, \$6.71; Sandeman Armada Cream, \$6.71; Duff Gordon Cream, \$6.79. **GROUP II, AVERAGE:** The following wine was judged better than the others in this group: Palomino and Vergara Palomino Cream, \$4.49; Paul Masson California Golden Cream, \$1.50; Gold Seal Private Reserve N.Y. State Cream, \$1.55; Meier's No. 44 American Cream, \$2.37; Cresta Blanca Triple California Cream, \$3.79. **GROUP III, BELOW AVERAGE:** Almaden California Solera Cream, \$1.50; The Christian Brothers California Cream, \$1.55; Great Western New York State Cream, \$1.55; Widmer's New York State Golden Cream, \$1.55; Taylor's New York State Cream, \$1.60; Beaulieu Vineyard California Cream, \$1.65; Masson California Rare Cream, \$2.80. **GROUP IV, POOR:** Bristol Club American Triple Cream (Gimbel's), \$1.29; Haverhill House American Triple Cream (Macy's), \$1.39.

#### SHERRIES OF INTERMEDIATE SWEETNESS

**GROUP I, SUPERIOR:** Forteresse Golden (Gimbel's), \$1.49; Wisdom and Warter Wisdom's Royal Brown Olóroso, \$1.79; Widmer's Special Selection New York State Sherry, \$1.95; Duff Gordon Niña, \$2.89; York House Imperial Fine (Macy's), \$2.89; Duff Gordon No. 28, \$3.19; York House Dry Solera, \$3.19; Harvey's Shooting Sherry, \$3.93; Sandeman 5-Star, \$4.09; Williams and Humbert Dry Sack, \$4.95. **GROUP II, AVERAGE:** The first three wines following were judged better than the others in this group. Great Western New York State, \$1.55; Pedro Domecq Ideal Pale, \$2.34; Gonzalez, Byass Gonzalez Nutty Solera, \$2.49. Almaden California Solera Golden, \$1.50; Paul Masson Fine California, \$1.50; Gold Seal Private Reserve New York State, \$1.55; Sandringham Golden (Gimbel's), \$1.79. **GROUP III, BELOW AVERAGE:** The first eight wines following were judged better than the others in this group. Italian Swiss Colony Gold Medal Reserve California, \$1.07 (1 qt.); Petri Family Crest California, \$1.07 (1 qt.); Bristol Club New York State (Gimbel's), \$1.19; The Christian Brothers California Golden, \$1.55; Cresta Blanca Souvenir California, \$1.55; Widmer's Neapolitan New York State, \$1.55; Beringer Brothers Private Stock Napa Valley, \$1.64; Beaulieu Vineyard California, \$1.65. Gallo Vintner's Stock California \$1.07 (1 qt.), Roma Reserve California, \$1.07 (1 qt.); Taylor's New York State, \$1.60; Meier's No. 22 Ohio State, \$1.70.

#### DRY OR COCKTAIL SHERRIES

**GROUP I, SUPERIOR:** The first nine wines following were judged better than the others in this group. Forteresse Pale Dry (Gimbel's), \$1.49; Wisdom and Warter Amontillado (Sherry's), \$1.99; Pedro Domecq Guita, \$2.34; Sandeman Dry Don, \$2.95; York House Amontillado Reservado (Macy's), \$3.19; Palomino and Vergara Palomino Amontillado Fino, \$3.29; Pedro Domecq La Ina, \$3.39; Duff Gordon Amontillado, \$3.72; Harvey's Bristol Dry, \$6.01. Sandringham Amontillado (Gimbel's), \$1.98; Rivero Amontillado (Lehmann's), \$2.49; York House Amontillado Superior (Macy's), \$2.49; Pedro Domecq Manzanilla Superior, \$2.99; Duff Gordon Club Dry, \$3.40; Sandeman Amontillado Fino, \$5.05. **GROUP II, AVERAGE:** Bristol Club New York State Cocktail (Gimbel's), \$1.19; Gold Seal Private Reserve New York State Cocktail, \$1.55; Widmer's New York State Cocktail, \$1.55; Cresta Blanca California Palomino, \$1.65; Louis M. Martini California Dry, \$2.09;

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Gonzalez, Byass Gonzalez Pale Dry Fino, \$2.19; Palomino and Vergara Palomino Pale Dry, \$2.90; Pedro Domecq Amontillado Primero, \$2.99; Rivero Dry Fino (Lehmann's), \$2.99; Sandeman 3-Star Amontillado, \$3.20; Williams and Humbert Amontillado, \$3.27; Harvey's Amontillado, \$3.42; Sandeman Apitiv, \$3.56; Cresta Blanca Dry Watch, \$3.79; Gonzalez, Byass Tio Pepe, \$3.88. **GROUP III, BELOW AVERAGE:** The following was judged better than the others in this group. Great Western New York State Cocktail, \$1.55. Roma Reserve California Pale Dry, \$1.07 (1 qt.); The Christian Brothers California Cocktail, Black Label, \$1.55; Taylor's New York State Pale Dry Cocktail, \$1.60; Beaulieu Vineyard California Pale Dry, \$1.65. **GROUP IV, POOR:** Gallo Vintners' Stock California Cocktail Dry, \$1.07 (1 qt.); Italian Swiss Colony Gold Medal Reserve California Pale Dry, \$1.07 (1 qt.); Petri Family Crest California Pale Dry, \$1.07; Haverill House California Solera Cocktail (Macy's), \$1.39; Almaden California Solera Cocktail, \$1.50; Masson Pale Dry California Cocktail, \$1.50; Cresta Blanca Souvenir California Pale Dry, \$1.55; Beringer Brothers Private Stock Napa Valley Pale Dry, \$1.64; Meier's Ohio State Cocktail, \$1.70.

## SHOE POLISHER, ELECTRIC, RONSON

100

CU tested the Ronson Roto-Shine, a hand-held electric shoe polisher (\$19.95 with brushes, buffing pads, polish). It kept the users' fingers cleaner than hand polishing; but it tended to pull away from the area being polished, was hard to work into crevices of badly scuffed shoes, was judged by some no faster than hand polishing. Conclusion: not really worthwhile except, perhaps, for persons physically unable to polish shoes by hand.

## SHOES, BOYS'

473

Sixteen brands tested, priced from \$4.98 to \$8.50 for smaller sizes, \$4.98 to \$9.50 for larger sizes. Worn 15 weeks by boys six to twelve years old and examined during and after the test period for performance of 30 components, the most important of which then were grouped under three headings—uppers, soles and heels, interiors—in determining CU's Ratings. Listed in order of estimated overall quality. Prices are first for smaller sizes (generally 8½ to 12) and then larger sizes (generally 12½ to 3). Except for mail-order brands, prices are averages of those paid by CU's shoppers.

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Jumping Jacks, Sr., Model 212, \$7.95, \$8.95; ✓Kali-Sten-Iks Model 2966, \$8.50, \$9.50. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** ✓Penney's Model 20-7356, \$4.98, \$4.98. **BEST BUY:** ✓Little Yankee Model 210, \$6.99, \$7.99; ✓Stride Rite, Model 4205 \$7.95, \$8.95; ✓Buster Brown Official Boy Scout, Model 709D73, \$7.95, \$8.95; ✓Buster Brown, Model 74B54, \$6.99, \$7.99; ✓Weatherbird, Model J7412, \$7.50, \$8.50; ✓Pied Piper, Models 3953 and 3954, \$7.95, \$8.95. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD TO FAIR:** Child Life, Model 263, \$7.95, \$8.95; Thom McAn, Model H644, \$4.99, \$4.99. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Poll Parrott, Model J7230, \$7.50, \$8.50; Dr. Posner, Model 7794-5, \$7.95, \$8.95. **ACCEPTABLE—POOR:** Sears Biltwel, Cat. No. 15G1324, \$5.27, \$5.27; Robin Hood, Model 74H28, \$5.95, \$6.95; Wards Pinehurst, Cat. No. 5524, \$5.49, \$5.49.

## "SMALL" CARS, FOUR FOR 1959

428

Road-test results, with Facts and Figures, for four non-comparable "small" cars: Borgward Isabella (West German), Fiat 1200 (Italian), Panhard Dyna (French), and Studebaker Lark Regal V-8 (U.S.). For Lark Rating, see AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1959.

## SMOKING

see Cigarette smoking, products to curb; Cigarettes; Cigars, little

## SPARK PLUGS, FIRE INJECTOR

242

Noting that the National Better Business Bureau was warning against exaggerated advertising claims for SA Fire Injectors, CU reported on limited use-tests of its own. Typical claims: "Now—run your car without spark plugs." "Up to 31 per cent more horsepower, eight more miles per gallon, using only regular gas." CU pointed out that Fire Injectors are indeed spark plugs, differing somewhat in design from conventional ones. In its tests, both types were compared in 5700-mile runs with eight 1957 and 1958 cars. Results: Fire Injectors showed no advantage over standard plugs in improving ac-

celeration or fuel economy, had no effect on the type of gasoline (regular or premium) required, appeared somewhat less durable than regular plugs. And the latter cost about \$1 each, while *Fire Injectors* were \$1.49 each.

## SPORTING GOODS

see Archery equipment for the beginner; Outboard motors; Reels, fly-fishing; Rifles, air and gas; Rifles, varmint

## SPOT REMOVAL, PAMPHLET ON

510

CU recommended to consumers the latest edition of the Department of Agriculture pamphlet, "Removing Stains from Fabrics—Home Methods"—Home & Garden Bulletin No. 62 (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.; 15¢).

## STATION WAGONS, U. S. FOR 1959

308

Twenty-six models (13 makes) rated in three price groups, with detailed mechanical specifications of each and Facts and Figures on three road-tested models. Among CU's conclusions: 1959 wagons were lower than ever (so that many tall articles no longer could be carried in them upright) and closer to the ground; averaging about 300 lb. heavier than the sedans from which they evolved, 1959 wagons needed larger tires than they were getting; some optional extras (e.g., air suspensions, heavy-duty springs, power steering, power brakes, extra-large V-8 engines) offered potentially greater utility for wagons than for comparable sedans. Report included discussion (with Facts and Figures) of three "special" vehicles road-tested by CU: the small British-made Vauxhall wagon (recommended for local use), the German-made Volkswagen Microbus (outstanding for both passenger and cargo use, but with a top speed of only 50 mph), the U.S.-made International Harvester Travelall (recommended for long-distance use with large loads). Also included: a guide to U.S. wagons sold in Canada. Listed within groups in order of estimated overall quality for use in carrying both passengers and cargo. Except as noted, prices are Manufacturers' Suggested Retail and include Federal tax; to these prices must be added freight charges, state and local taxes, and the cost of optional extras (prices of "low-priced" Eighties include lowest-priced automatic transmission available, while Group 2 and 3 prices also include power steering). Except as noted, all wagons have 4 doors and 2 seats.

### ACCEPTABLE

**GROUP 1, "LOW-PRICED.** (with manual transmission). Ford Ranch Wagon, \$2634; Edsel Villager, \$2875; Chevrolet Brookwood, \$2638; Rambler Super Cross Country, \$2562; Plymouth Deluxe Suburban, \$2641; Studebaker Lark Deluxe, \$2295, (2-door only), Rambler American Deluxe, \$2060. **"LOW-PRICED" EIGHTS.** Ford Ranch Wagon, \$2942; Edsel Villager, \$3161; Plymouth V-8 Deluxe Suburban, \$2950; Chevrolet V-3 Brookwood, \$2955; Rambler Ambassador Super Cross Country, \$3111; Studebaker Lark Regal (2-door only), \$2790; Rambler Rebel Super Cross Country, \$2812. **GROUP 2, MEDIUM-PRICED.** Dodge Sierra, \$3384; De Soto Firesweep Shopper, \$3661; Pontiac Catalina Safari, \$3440; Mercury Commuter, \$3549; Oldsmobile 88 Fiesta, \$3704; Buick Le Sabre Estate Wagon, \$3648. **GROUP 3, HIGH-PRICED.** Chrysler Windsor Town and Country, \$4026; Chrysler New Yorker Town and Country, \$4997; De Soto Firefite Shopper, \$4322; Mercury Voyager, \$3901; Oldsmobile Super 88 Fiesta, \$4008; Buick Invicta Estate Wagon, \$3949.

## STEREO EQUIPMENT

see Hi-fi equipment

## STOCKINGS, ELASTIC, SUPP-HOSE

40

CU looked into promotional claims for Supp-hose, an elastic nylon stocking available in men's and women's styles. One implication was that Supp-hose could substitute for rubber surgical hose in such disorders as varicose veins; CU judged otherwise. Advertising claims that Supp-hose would ward off leg fatigue, as allegedly shown in medical research, seemed invalid to CU on two counts. First, leg fatigue is a subjective symptom almost impossible to test objectively. Second, tight wrapping does not keep legs from getting

## Page numbers, by months

*The page-number references to the original reports summarized here run consecutively through the 12 issues of CONSUMER REPORTS published during 1959:*

1-48 JANUARY	217-272 MAY	449-504 SEPTEMBER
49-96 FEBRUARY	273-336 JUNE	505-552 OCTOBER
97-152 MARCH	337-392 JULY	553-620 NOVEMBER
153-216 APRIL	393-448 AUGUST	621-688 DECEMBER

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tired; they tire when muscles accumulate waste products from over-use and, as the blood carries the waste away, the fatigue goes too.

### STROKES, NEW PAMPHLETS ON

442

With heart attacks and strokes the commonest cause of disability after middle age, rehabilitation has received special emphasis. CU recommended two new pamphlets designed to help both patient and family understand a stroke and cooperate in treatment: *Strokes, a Guide for the Family* (free; American Heart Ass'n., 44 E. 23rd St., NYC) and *Strike Back at Stroke* (40¢; Supt. of Documents, Washington 25, D.C.).

### STRONTIUM-90 IN MILK

102, 158, 262

Discussion of radioactive fallout and its threat to mankind, with a report on a CU survey of strontium-90, a component of fallout, in milk. Strontium-90 is taken into the human body in food (above all, milk) and concentrates in bone. Because of its great potential danger to consumers, CU undertook to supplement Government studies of Strontium-90 in milk with the broadest U.S. survey ever made up to then. In 50 carefully chosen U.S. and Canadian cities, a total of 1600 quarts of milk was bought at retail over a four-week period; pooled samples from each city were shipped to CU and analyzed. Result: CU confirmed the fact that the strontium-90 content of milk has been increasing since 1954—and found the rate of increase greater than previously calculated. In seven cities (Bismarck, N.D., Boston, Chicago, Memphis, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Quebec) the strontium-90 content was about twice the average for the other 43 cities in the survey. The highest figure found was still only about one-sixth the maximum tentative "permissible" concentration. But CU concluded that there is a potential hazard, and investigation of all the unknown factors is urgently needed. NOTE: CU offered reprints of this report, and a film on how it was produced, in the April 1959 issue. Comment on Government concern over radioactive fallout appeared in the May issue. CU's prediction that average strontium-90 content of U.S.-milk would reach or exceed 10 strontium units during the summer of 1959 was confirmed by subsequent data.

### STUDEBAKER LARK SIX FOR 1959

83

Individual road-test report, with Facts and Figures. For Rating, see AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1959.

### SUPREME COURT DECISIONS AND THE CONSUMER

74

Though the human-rights decisions of the Supreme Court receive many more headlines, its economic decisions often mean a great deal to consumers. For those who might have overlooked them (or who might have been unaware of their significance), CU reviewed four recent Court decisions in the economic sphere: 1) in favor of a California woman who sought to collect on her son's life insurance although he had been insured with a Texas company (of interest to anyone who buys by mail from firms outside his own state); 2) in favor of the Du Pont Cellophane Co., sued for violation of the antitrust laws (but the suit helped open the Cellophane and nylon fields to additional

competition); 3) against Du Pont for a different antitrust violation and its substantial investment in General Motors (opening up the possibility that other companies might be forced to abandon similar relationships); and 4) against McKesson & Robbins, the No. 1 U.S. wholesaler of drug products, for setting up "fair trade" contracts with independent wholesalers binding them to resell McKesson & Robbins products at prices fixed by McKesson (important because of the Court's comments as they related to forthcoming Congressional consideration of a Federal price-fixing law).

## SWEATERS, WOMEN'S

22 (C: 158)

Fifty-seven models tested—29 cardigans, priced from \$5.74 plus shipping to \$12.98, and 28 matching slip-ons (all but two short-sleeved), priced from \$3.77 plus shipping to \$10.98. Tested for colorfastness, effects of laundering, tendency to pill, fabric strength, and feel; examined for "fashioning" quality of knitting, and workmanship. Three fiber types were compared. Orions were soft and had generally better colorfastness than other sweaters tested, but many pillled to some degree; textured nylon (Ban-Lon, Tycora, Renel) and textured Dacron were close-knit, relatively smooth, did not pill but did tend to snag on slightly rough surfaces; wool and wool blends (tested for comparison) had the softest, most resilient feel but suffered appreciable fiber loss through pilling. CU felt differences among fiber types might be more important to the wearer than differences among brands within a type. Listed in order of estimated overall quality within fiber types. Except as noted, prices in parentheses are for short-sleeve slip-ons.

**ACCEPTABLE:** Orion: ✓Talbot Talaran, \$8.98 (\$6.98); ✓Jane Irwill Super Orion, \$5.98 (\$3.98) **BEST BUY:** ✓Darlene Melospun Hi-Bulk, \$8.95, (\$6.98); Pandora, \$7.98 (\$5.98); Premier Korlane-Rex Style No. 6164, \$7.95 (Style No. 6160, \$5.98); Donwood Donspun Orion, \$7.95 (\$6.95); Kerrybrooke Orion Style No. 8300, \$5.74 plus shipping (\$3.77 plus shipping); Dorset Ultra Lon \$7.98 (\$5.94). Ban-Lon, Tycora, Renel and Dacron: ✓Kerrybrooke Ban-Lon Style No. 9360, \$6.77 plus shipping (\$4.77 plus shipping); ✓Old Colony Ban-Lon Style No. 705, \$7.98; ✓Miss Gotham Madjik Dacron, \$7.98, \$8.98 (\$6.98); ✓Rosanna Ban-Lon, \$7.98, \$8.41 (\$6.53); ✓Talbot Tycora, \$8.98 (\$6.98); ✓Jane Irwill Ban-Lon, \$5.98, \$7.98 (\$5.98); ✓Canterbury Tycora Style No. 515, \$8.95 (Style No. 510, \$6.98); ✓Exmoor Tycora Style No. 503, \$8.95 (Style No. 501, \$6.98); ✓Brentshire Ban-Lon Style No. 4243, \$6.47 plus shipping (Style No. 4242, \$4.47 plus shipping); ✓Pandora Ban-Lon, \$7.98 (\$5.98); ✓Darlene Mirafil Ban-Lon, \$8.98 (\$6.98); ✓Garland Tycora, \$8.98 (\$6.98); ✓Helen Harper Renel, \$7.98 (\$6.98). Wool and Wool Blends: ✓Garland Shetlander all wool, Style No. 1600, \$10.95 (Style No. 1602, \$8.95); ✓Darlene Shaglander wool and alpaca blend, \$10.95 long-sleeve slip-on (\$8.95); ✓Pendleton 100% Virgin Wool, \$11.95 (\$9.95); ✓Kerrybrooke fur fiber, lambswool, fur fiber and nylon blend, Style No. 9420, \$6.77 plus shipping (Style No. 9380, \$4.06, \$4.77, \$5.74 plus shipping); ✓Elliot Lambswool all wool, \$7.98 (\$5.98); ✓Darlene Minklam, lambswool, fur fiber, mink and nylon blend, \$9.95 (\$7.95); Bernhard Altmann Bernamere, wool and fur fiber blend, \$12.98 (\$10.98); Elliot Cashmora, wool, angora blend, \$8.95 (\$7.95).

# T

## TELEVISION

see Television antennas for FM-radio use; Television antennas, outdoor; Television circuits, wired vs. printed; Television set, fully transistorized; Television sets, 21-inch console; Television sets, 21-inch table-model; Television sets with remote control

## TELEVISION ANTENNAS FOR FM-RADIO USE

536

Following its tests of outdoor TV antennas (below), CU tried three of them as FM-radio antennas. The three—Channel Master 350A, Trio Zephyr ZR-1, Winegard Colorceptor CL-4X—were those which had been judged best in mechanical construction and whose performance indicated they might do well for FM. Main goal: to cut out multipath distortion ("ghosts"), which on FM causes a buzz or rattle that often sounds as though it were in the speaker. CU's tests indicated that the Channel Master might do this but the other two models would not; the Channel Master's gain, however, might be insufficient in weak FM-signal areas.

## TELEVISION ANTENNAS, OUTDOOR

411

Nineteen models tested—nine local/suburban models (priced from \$5.28 to \$19.95), nine fringe-area models (\$11.48 to \$54.95), and one local/suburban and fringe model (\$19.95). All "all-channel" models (best for use where three or more channels are received), rated on four performance characteristics on each of the 12 VHF channels: 1) GAIN, ability to deliver the greatest possible amount of the TV signal to the receiver; 2) FRONT/BACK RATIO, sensitivity to signals from the desired direction compared with sensitivity to signals from undesired directions; 3) BEAM WIDTH, pattern of sensitivity to signals within a certain area (an antenna with a wide beam is sensitive to signals arriving within a wide frontal sector of the horizon, one with a narrow beam to signals from a narrow frontal sector; a "lobey" antenna is one whose sensitivity varies markedly within its beam width); 4) IMPEDANCE MATCH between the antenna's impedance and that of the lead-in line and the TV set's input. (If the match with either is poor, a loss of signal results). Also judged were quality of construction and ease of assembly. CU stressed that the reader should judge any model almost entirely in light of its performance characteristics on each channel he wants to receive (e.g., a picture with a great deal of "snow" indicates a need for high gain; a "ghost" problem, a need for high front/back ratio and a narrow beam; receipt of signals from opposite directions, for a low front/back ratio). Report included advice on installation and a note on tests of two single-channel yagi antennas; CU felt the latter type is preferable to an all-channel antenna where only one channel is received (or two yagis where two channels are received from different directions). Listed by groups in order of estimated quality of construction and, among antennas equal in this respect, in order of increasing list price. Performance of each model in CU's tests is summarized for Channels 2 through 13 (indicated by numerals) in this order: GAIN (VH, very high; H, high; M, medium; L, low; Loss means tested antenna had less gain than the "standard" antenna used as a yardstick in the tests. FRONT/BACK RATIO (VH, very high; H, high, FH, fairly high; M, medium; L, low; R, reversed, BEAM WIDTH (L, lobey; M, medium; N, narrow; O, omnidirectional; W, wide; X, irregular), IMPEDANCE MATCH (G, good; F, fair; P, poor).

### LOCAL/SUBURBAN MODELS

**ACCEPTABLE:** Amphenol Inline 114-040, \$13.95 (\$16.80). 2—L, FH, M, F; 3—L, M, M, F; 4—L, L, M, G; 5—L, L, M, F; 6—L, L, M, P; 7—L, M, M, F; 8—L, M, M, G; 9—M, M, M, G; 10—M, N, F; 11—M, M, N, G; 12—M, M, N, F; 13—M, L, N, F. Taco The Topliner '40-2540, \$14.75 (\$20.45). 2—L, L, M, G; 3—L, L, M, F; 4—L, L, M, F; 5—L, M, M, F; 6—L, M, M, F; 7—M, M, N, F; 8—M, M, N, F; 9—M, FH, N, G; 10—M, H, N, G; 11—M, H, N, G; 12—H, H, N, F; 13—M, H, L, F. Winegard Twilight 238, \$19.95 (\$19.95). 2—Loss, L, M, F; 3—L, L, M, F; 4—L, L, M, F; 5—L, L, M, G; 6—L, L, M, F; 7—L, L, M, F; 8—L, M, M, F; 9—L, M, M, F; 10—L, M, M, F; 11—M, FH, M, F; 12—M, H, M, F; 13—M, M, H, M, G. Channel Master Challenger 302, \$5.28 (\$7.35). 2—Loss, R, W, P; 3—L, M, M, F; 4—L, M, M, P; 5—L, L, M, F; 6—L, L, O, F; 7—L, L, N, P; 8—L, L, N, P; 9—M, L, N, G; 10—L, L, N, F; 11—M, L, N, F; 12—M, L, L, F; 13—M, L, L, F. Walsco Imperial 4060, \$10.95. 2—Loss, L, M, P; 3—L, M, M, F; 4—L, M, M, F; 5—L, M, M, F; 6—L, L, M, F; 7—M, L, M, G; 8—M, M, N, G; 9—M, M, N, F; 10—M, L, N, F; 11—M, L, N, F; 12—M, L, N, F; 13—M, L, N, F. JFD Jet 160, \$11.55 (\$16.50). 2—Loss, L, M, P; 3—L, M, M, F; 4—L, L, M, F; 5—L, L, M, F; 6—L, L, O, F; 7—M, M, N, F; 8—M, M, N, F; 9—M, M, N, F; 10—M, L, N, F; 11—M, L, N, F; 12—M, L, N, F; 13—M, L, N, G. Trio Colorite C-1, \$11.95 (\$16.09). 2—L, L, W, F; 3—L, L, M, G; 4—L, L, M, F; 5—L, L, M, F; 6—L, L, M, F; 7—M, FH, N, F; 8—M, H, N, F; 9—M, H, N, F; 10—H, H, N, G; 11—H, FH, N, G; 12—M, M, N, F; 13—M, M, N, P. Clear Beam C64, \$5.39 (\$6.09). 2—Loss, L, M, P; 3—L, M, M, F; 4—L, M, M, F; 5—L, L, M, F; 6—L, L, O, F; 7—L, L, O, G; 8—M, L, O, G; 9—M, M, O, F; 10—M, M, O, F; 11—M, L, O, F; 12—M, L, N, F; 13—M, L, N, F. Finney Finco B-6, \$18.90 (\$22.68). 2—M, M, M, F; 3—M, M, M, P; 4—M, FH, M, G; 5—M, H, M, F; 6—M, H, M, F; 7—M, FH, N, P; 8—M, FH, N, F; 9—H, FH, N, F; 10—M, FH, L, F; 11—M, FH, L, F; 12—M, FH, L, G; 13—M, FH, L, F.

### LOCAL/SUBURBAN AND FRINGE MODEL

**ACCEPTABLE:** Snyder The Town & Country TNT-V, \$19.95 (\$29.95). 2—L, L, M, F; 3—L, FH, W, F; 4—L, H, W, F; 5—L, FH, M, F; 6—L, M, M, F; 7—H, L, N, G; 8—H, M, N, G; 9—H, M, N, G; 10—H, FH, N, F; 11—H, FH, N, F; 12—H, M, N, F; 13—M, M, N, F.

### FRINGE MODELS

**ACCEPTABLE:** Channel Master 350A, \$54.95 (\$75). 2—M, H, M, F; 3—M, H, M, F; 4—M, H, M, G; 5—M, VH, M, G; 6—M, VH, M, F; 7—H, FH, M, G; 8—H, FH, M, G; 9—VH,

H, N, F; 10—H, VH, N, F; 11—VH, VH, N, F; 12—VH, VH, N, F; 13—H, FH, N, F. *Trio Zephyr ZR-1*, \$34.95 (\$47.52). 2—L, R, M, F; 3—M, FH, M, G; 4—M, H, M, G; 5—M, VH, M, G; 6—M, VH, M, F; 7—M, FH, N, F; 8—H, H, N, F; 9—H, H, N, F; 10—H, FH, N, F; 11—H, FH, N, F; 12—M, M, M, F; 13—L, L, M, F. *Winegard Colorcepter CL4-X*, \$44.90 (\$44.90). 2—M, H, M, G; 3—M, FH, M, F; 4—M, H, M, F; 5—M, VH, M, F; 6—M, VH, M, F; 7—M, FH, M, G; 8—M, H, M, F; 9—H, H, M, G; 10—M, H, M, F; 11—H, H, M, F; 12—H, H, M, F; 13—M, FH, M, F. *Walsco Wizard 4220*, \$19.50. 2—L, L, M, F; 3—M, M, M, F; 4—M, M, F; 5—M, FH, M, F; 6—M, H, M, P; 7—M, L, N, P; 8—M, M, N, P; 9—H, FH, N, F; 10—H, H, N, F; 11—H, FH, L, F; 12—H, FH, L, G; 13—H, FH, L, F. *Amphenol Poweray 114-095*, \$34.75. 2—M, FH, M, F; 3—M, FH, M, G; 4—M, FH, M, F; 5—L, M, M, F; 6—L, M, M, F; 7—H, M, N, F; 8—H, M, N, F; 9—H, L, N, F; 10—H, L, N, G; 11—H, L, N, G; 12—H, L, L, G; 13—H, L, L, G. *Taco The Topliner '70-2570*, \$36.75 (\$51). 2—M, M, M, G; 3—M, H, M, F; 4—M, H, M, G; 5—M, H, M, G; 6—M, FH, M, F; 7—M, M, L, G; 8—M, FH, L, G; 9—H, H, L, G; 10—H, H, L, G; 11—H, FH, L, G; 12—H, H, L, F; 13—H, FH, N, F. *Finney Finco B-8*, \$37.50 (\$45). 2—M, M, M, F; 3—M, H, M, F; 4—M, VH, M, F; 5—M, VH, M, F; 6—M, VH, M, F; 7—H, M, N, F; 8—M, M, L, F; 9—H, H, L, F; 10—H, FH, L, G; 11—H, FH, L, F; 12—H, FH, L, G; 13—H, FH, L, G. *JFD Satellite-Helix VX-1111*, \$47.50 (\$73.50). 2—M, VL, M, F; 3—M, H, M, G; 4—M, VH, M, G; 5—M, VH, M, F; 6—M, H, M, F; 7—Loss, X, X, F; 8—M, M, N, F; 9—M, FH, L, F; 10—H, VH, N, G; 11—VH, X, X, G; 12—VH, VH, N, G; 13—H, H, N, G. *Clear Beam C64-2*, \$11.48 (\$12.68). 2—Loss, L, M, P; 3—L, FH, M, P; 4—M, FH, M, P; 5—M, M, M, F; 6—M, M, M, F; 7—M, L, O, G; 8—H, L, O, G; 9—H, M, O, G; 10—H, L, O, F; 11—H, L, O, F; 12—H, L, O, F; 13—H, L, O, F.

## TELEVISION CIRCUITS, WIRED VS. PRINTED

527, 628

CU explored the TV-industry controversy over use of wired circuits (in which set components are interconnected by individual, hand-soldered wires) vs. printed circuits (in which connections are made by metal conducting strips "printed" on a plastic board). Main points: though wired circuitry is traditional in electrical appliances, printed circuitry (a World War II development) was taken up by most TV-set makers in 1955; though this was done in part to cut production costs, the saving was not passed on to consumers; furthermore, printed circuit sets were found by TV repairmen to be harder and more expensive to repair than wired circuits. CU's conclusion: either type of circuit could give good or bad performance, depending on other design factors; but overall, and for the time being—until printed circuitry is improved—wired-circuit sets should average lower in repair time and costs per repair job. Note: a discussion of the circuits found in the 1960-model consoles was included in the report on those units.

## TELEVISION SET, FULLY TRANSISTORIZED

556

CU tested the \$250 *Philco Safari* (\$399.95), first TV set to be fully transistorized, thus able to run on batteries. Truly portable at 15 lb., it features a 2-inch picture tube which, via projection and magnification, produces a picture seemingly about the size of that of a 14-inch set. CU praised its use of transistors; the set had good sensitivity and interference rejection, and could play four hours before battery recharging. But the picture could be seen fully by only one viewer at a time, and in CU's test model it was not sharp enough to rate high. Though Philco claimed later production models would be better in this respect, CU advised prospective buyers to wait for other versions of the true portable TV set.

## TELEVISION SETS, 21-INCH CONSOLE

628

Fourteen 1960 models tested, priced from \$228 to \$369.95. All were tested for picture quality, brightness-contrast ratio, interference rejection, and automatic gain control (AGC). Also compared were tone quality, controls, ease of servicing, and such convenience features as sound-output jacks, individual channel adjustment, and remote controls. Two higher-priced models, the *General Electric 21C3567* (\$369.95) and the *Packard-Bell 21DC9* (\$329.95), were included in the project because they were the manufacturers' lowest priced models incorporating a minimum of good design features found in most other sets tested. The two were therefore rated separately. The GE was judged to be of check-rated quality and the Packard-Bell was rated Fairly Good. Except as noted, rated in order of estimated overall quality for use in strong- and medium-signal areas.

(Turn page for Ratings)

SUMMARY AND INDEX 51



**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** First two models, about equal in overall performance quality, listed alphabetically: ✓Dumont "Oxford" RA600/601A, \$299.95; ✓Zenith "The Thorndale" D2347E, \$329.95 (\$409.95). Admiral C22M11, \$249.95. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** First four models, about equal in overall quality, listed alphabetically: Magnavox 1-MV123L, \$259.50; Motorola 21K124W, \$269.95 (\$339.95); Philco "The Bristol" H4672W, \$259.95 (\$339.95); RCA Victor 210K295, \$249.95; Hoffman W3631, \$279.95; Wards Airline WG-5083A, \$269.95; Westinghouse "The Gainsborough" K-4201, \$329.95; Sears Silvertone 164, \$277.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Model 160, \$379.95 incl. shipping); Emerson 1460A, \$228.

## TELEVISION SETS, 21-INCH TABLE-MODEL

10 (C:220)

Seventeen 1959 models tested, priced from \$172.95 plus shipping to \$248. All were tested for picture quality, interference rejection, brightness/contrast ratio, and automatic gain control (AGC). Also compared were tone quality and convenience of design (both for adjusting controls and for repairing breakdowns). Report discussed advertising claims of transformer-powered vs. transformerless TV sets, concluded that, so far as overall performance and durability are concerned, neither type of power supply is clearly superior. Listed in order of estimated overall quality for use in strong- and medium-signal areas.

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Zenith B2221R, \$199.95 (B2221RCSA, \$299.95); Motorola 21T57CHD, \$179.95; Sylvania 21T121S, \$189.95; RCA Victor 21T9135, \$199.95; Admiral T21G1, \$189.95; Sears Silvertone "Suburbanite" Cat. No. 9114, \$172.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 9114, \$259.95 incl. shipping); Emerson 1476, \$248; Airline 5062B, \$219.95 plus shipping; General Electric 21T2420, \$199.95; Hotpoint 21S412, \$189.95; Westinghouse 21T202, \$199.95; Philco 4230E, \$189.95; Magnavox MV121LX4, \$188 to \$219.90 depending on cabinet and finish; Olympic TB131M, \$179.95; Packard Bell 21VT4, \$199.95 to \$219.95, depending on cabinet finish; Hoffman K1281, \$199.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Du Mont "Mansfield" RA-502/503A, \$199.95 (shock hazard, apparently due to freak production mishap, found on some samples that are indistinguishable from safe ones).

## TELEVISION SETS WITH REMOTE CONTROL

112

Eight console models tested, priced from \$239.95 plus shipping to \$399.95. Depending on the set, one of three types of remote control was used: wireless, with ultrasonic waves carrying commands to the set; "wireless," with the remote unit plugged into a wall outlet; wired, with remote unit and receiver connected by a cable. All were tested for convenience and relative merits. Two ultrasonic units (Zenith's and Admiral's) were the most versatile: they could be used to rotate the channel selector in either direction, set the sound at any of three volume levels, or shut it off completely, and turn the set itself on and off. The receivers in CU's project also were tested for overall picture quality, interference rejection, brightness/contrast ratio, automatic gain control, and convenience of use, adjustment, and repair. Except as noted, listed in order of overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Zenith B3008-R, \$349.95 (\$489). The first three models following, approximately equal in overall quality, listed alphabetically: Admiral CS21G62, \$349.95; Motorola A-21K106M, \$329.95; RCA 21-RT-9655, \$399.95. General Electric 21C2550, \$349.95; Silvertone "Medalist" 9160, \$254.95 plus shipping; Westinghouse H21K224, \$299.95; Wards Airline GTM5044A, \$239.95 plus shipping.

## TEXTILE LABELING, FEDERAL LEGISLATION ON

221

Comment on the new Textile Fiber Products Identification Act (to take effect Mar. 3, 1960). CU's view: though the act is desirable in principle, it is only a small step in the right direction. Main reason: it does not provide for specific information—particularly performance characteristics—on textile labels.

## THUNDERBIRD AND MERCURY FOR 1959

258

Comparison of two Ford Motor Co. cars, based on road tests and including Facts and Figures. For Mercury Rating, see AUTOMOBILES, U.S., FOR 1959.

## TIRES, AUTOMOBILE

243, 342

Premium, first, second, and third lines tested in 6.70-15 size (most common as replacements) of the six major brands, and first lines in 7.50-14 (most com-



mon among post-1957 cars) of the same brands plus two others. Each sample received 3200 miles of road wear under exacting test conditions; weight loss was precisely measured during the course of and at the conclusion of the driving, total tread rubber was determined, and total tread-mileage then was calculated. Other tests: comparison of all lines in stops with locked brakes (premium tires proved no more effective than others); comparison of two brands with expensive double-chamber construction, tested with outer chamber deflated (Goodyears held air well at low speeds; Firestones went flat almost, but not quite, immediately); puncture tests of two "self-sealing" premium tires, Firestone and Goodrich (neither could be relied on to seal all punctures completely); impact tests on tire cords (nylon stood up better than either Tyrex or non-Tyrex rayon did.) Overall, CU stressed that tire pricing is very deceptive; though the Big Four (Goodyear, Firestone, B. F. Goodrich, U.S. Royal) had set identical prices in most lines, CU's shoppers found samples selling for as much as \$44.30 off list, as much as \$18.76 above list. Therefore CU urged motorists to relate price—and line designations—primarily to tread-mileage wear. Useful formula: Multiply quoted tire price by 10,000, then divide resulting figure by the average tread-mileage results listed for that tire in CU's tests (below); result gives a relative cost per tire per 10,000 tread-miles. Examples: Goodyear Custom Super Cushion, which gave a relative 28,600 tread-miles, had a relative cost of \$7.70 per 10,000 miles at the \$22.03 low price quoted to CU's shoppers; U.S. Royal Safety 8, 18,700 tread-miles, had a relative cost of \$19.90 per 10,000 miles at its \$37.06 list). Listed by sizes; within sizes, by groups in order of decreasing tread-mileage; within groups, in order of decreasing relative tread-mileage (in parentheses) as indicated by CU's road-test data. Except as noted, prices are list for 4-ply blackwall nylon tubeless tires. Abbreviations: P, premium; F, first; S, second; T, third.

**6.70-15 TIRES. HIGHEST MILEAGE:** Goodyear Double Eagle (P-30,900), 6-ply, whitewall only, \$67.07 without Safety Shield, \$85.98 with Safety Shield; Sears Allstate Silent Guardsman Cat. Nos. 0863K, 0866K (P-30,500), \$27.34 plus shipping; B. F. Goodrich Life-Saver Silvertown (P-30,200), \$56.99. **VERY HIGH MILEAGE:** Goodyear Custom Super Cushion (F-28,600), \$37.06; Goodyear Captive-Air Type Custom Super Cushion with Safety Shield (F-28,600), whitewall only, \$65.82; U.S. Royal Master (P-27,500), \$77.01. **HIGH MILEAGE:** Sears Allstate Silent Cushion Cat. Nos. 03063K, 03066K, 03064K (F-25,200), \$22.84 plus shipping; B. F. Goodrich Deluxe Silvertown (F-24,900), \$37.06; B. F. Goodrich Deluxe (S-24,500), \$30.06; Firestone Supreme (P-23,800), whitewall only, \$82.61. **MEDIUM MILEAGE:** Firestone "500" (F-19,400), \$37.06; Firestone Deluxe Champion (F-19,400), rayon, \$33.86; Goodyear De Luxe Super Cushion (S-19,400), \$30.11; Wards Riverside Air Cushion Cat. Nos. 1317MB, 1117MB (S-18,700), rayon, \$16.39 plus shipping; U.S. Royal Safety 8 (F-18,700), \$37.06; Wards Riverside Nylon 64 Cat. Nos. 6417MB, 6517MB (P-18,600), \$23.89 plus shipping; Wards Riverside Super De Luxe Cat. Nos. 4317MB, 5317MB, 4117M (F-18,400), \$21.69 plus shipping; Firestone Deluxe Super Champion (S-17,900), \$30.06. **LOW MILEAGE:** Goodyear Super Cushion (T-16,700), rayon tube-type, \$16.90. **VERY LOW MILEAGE:** Sears Allstate Cat. No. 0667 (T-14,500), rayon tube-type, \$12.62 plus shipping. **LOWEST MILEAGE:** Wards Riverside Cat. No. 1017MB (T-12,900), rayon tube-type, \$12.22 plus shipping; U. S. Royal Air Ride (T-12,600), rayon tube-type, \$16.90; U. S. Royal De Luxe (S-12,000), \$30.11; Firestone Super Champion (T-11,400), rayon tube-type, \$16.90; B. F. Goodrich Safety-S (T-9,700), rayon tube-type, \$16.90.

**7.50-14 TIRES. HIGH MILEAGE:** Goodyear Custom Super Cushion (F-25,100), \$38.81; Goodyear Captive-Air Type Custom Super Cushion with Safety Shield (F-25,100), \$59.39; General (F-23,600), \$44.36; Sears Allstate Silent Cushion Cat. Nos. 03163K, 03162K, 03164K (F-23,600), \$23.89 plus shipping; B. F. Goodrich Deluxe Silvertown (F-22,100), \$38.81; Atlas Plycon Cushionaire (F-21,700), rayon, \$35.46; Wards Riverside Super De Luxe Cat. Nos. 4324MB, 5324MB (F-21,600), \$23.95 plus shipping. **MEDIUM MILEAGE:** U.S. Royal Safety 8 (F-19,000), \$38.81; Firestone "500" (F-17,800), \$38.81; Firestone Deluxe Champion (F-17,800), rayon, \$35.46.

## TOY, EDUCATIONAL, THE VISIBLE MAN

567

CU examined *The Visible Man* (\$4.98), a 15-inch transparent-plastic scale model of a man, judged useful for students and those interested in human anatomy. Sold in kit form, it includes three main elements—the model's outer shell, bones and bone parts, and organs and organ parts—to be assembled with liquid cement (not provided). Following the instructions, CU judged assembly not too difficult. In the completed model, size and location of body organs was found quite accurate; though the muscular system was absent, it was well illustrated and described in an accompanying pamphlet. CU did have two

criticisms: the model's arteries and veins could not be easily differentiated from each other (a drawback for serious students) and the pamphlet omitted a discussion of the reproductive system.

## TURNTABLES, HIGH-FIDELITY

531

Twenty-five models tested (priced from \$28.50 to \$246), along with six models of single-record players (\$29.95 to \$59.95) and 10 models of record changers (\$38.50 to \$79.95). All tested for capacity to deliver high-quality stereo performance, and rated accordingly—though some, not highly rated, still would be good buys for less demanding listeners. Tested for a variety of performance and convenience factors (flutter, rumble, speed stability, quietness of operation, and others); note that only turntables received check-ratings for hi-fi stereo performance. *Except as noted, listed by types in order of estimated overall performance; Ratings apply equally to monophonic use. Prices do not include mounting boards or bases.*

### TURNTABLES

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** ✓*Rek-O-Kut L-34*, \$59.95 (\$82.75) **BEST BUY;** ✓*Fairchild 412-1*, \$79.50 (\$123.50); ✓*Rek-O-Kut B-12*, \$84.95 (\$117.25); ✓*Stromberg-Carlson PR-499*, \$99.95 (\$109.95); ✓*Rek-O-Kut B-12GH*, \$99.95 (\$137.95); ✓*Rek-O-Kut L-34H*, \$79.95 (\$110); ✓*Scott 710-A*, \$129.95 (\$171.95); ✓*Fairchild 412-4*, \$246 (\$380); ✓*Thorens TD-124*, \$99.75 (\$138.75) (rated second to *Rek-O-Kut L-34* when used with *Sola 20-10-015* regulating transformer, \$15); ✓*Fairchild 412-2*, \$99.50 (\$155). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** *Pickering Gyroprise 800*, \$59.85 (\$74.80); *Garrard 301*, \$89 (\$82.50). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Three models judged about equal: *Lafayette PK-245*, \$64.50; *Rek-O-Kut N-33H*, \$69.95 (\$96.50); *Weathers ML-1*, \$49.95 (\$69.95). **ACCEPTABLE—POOR:** *Lafayette PK-180*, \$28.50; *Presto T-18A*, \$75 (\$105); *Lafayette PK-240*, \$37.50; *Presto T-18-AH*, \$131 (\$183.40); *Presto T-2*, \$59.50 (\$83.30); *Rek-O-Kut K-33*, \$39.95 (\$54.95). **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (performance flaws): *Collaro 4TR200*, \$49.50 (\$47.95) (rated acceptable—Poor for monophonic use); *Connoisseur B*, \$119.50 (\$107.50); *Gray 33H*, \$79.95 (\$125); *Music Master 2*, \$54.95 (\$84).

### SINGLE-RECORD PLAYERS

**ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** *Bogen B-61*, \$54.95 (\$76.45). **ACCEPTABLE—POOR:** *Thorens TD-134*, \$59.95 (\$78.35). **NOT ACCEPTABLE** for stereo use (performance flaws) but rated Fair for monophonic use: *Garrard T/11*, \$32.50; *Garrard 4HF*, \$59.50 (\$55). **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (performance flaws): *Collaro TP59*, \$29.95 (RP594, \$22.95); *Miraphon XM210*, \$47.50.

### RECORD CHANGERS

**ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** *Dual 1006*, \$69.95 (\$69.95). **NOT ACCEPTABLE** for stereo use (performance flaws) but rated Fair for monophonic use: *Webcor TR-1931-27*, \$44 (\$47.62); *Garrard RC-88*, \$59.50 (\$49.30). **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (performance flaws): *Collaro TSC-640*, \$38.50 (RC-300, \$29.95); *Collaro TSC-840*, \$49.50; *Garrard RC-121/11*, \$42.50 (\$39.60); *Glaser Steers 77*, \$59.50 (\$69.90); *Miracord XS-200*, \$67.50 (\$59.95); *Thorens CD-43N*, \$79.95 (\$89.95); *V-M 1202*, \$50 (*Seabreeze V-M 1202*, \$69.95).



## UTENSILS, COOKING, CORNING WARE

559

CU tested Corning Ware cooking utensils, made of one of the Corning Glass Works Co.'s ceramic materials (called Pyrocerams) designed for use in guided-missile nose coverings. Available in various sizes of skillets (\$4.95-\$8.95) and saucepans (\$3.95-\$6.95) with removable, extra-cost handles, and in percolators (\$9.95 and \$10.95), *Corning Ware* was use-tested by a CU panel. Testers generally liked its appearance but not its weight (e.g., 5¼ lb. for the 10-inch skillet with cover and handle). Other conclusions: since heat transfer in Pyroceram is relatively slow, one portion of a utensil might get hot enough to burn some foods before the rest of it was warmed up; conversely, cooked food in a utensil used as a serving dish would stay hot for a reasonable time; all utensils were judged quite easy to clean, able to withstand sudden temperature changes, and reasonably resistant to breakage in normal use.

## Back copies

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### UTENSILS, MASTER-HEAT-CONTROL

121

CU tested the *Sunbeam RS-3* saucepan and RG griddle (\$17.95 each), received too late for its December 1958 report on "families" of utensils operable (one at a time) by a single probe-type control. (See Summary of 1958 report on page 64.) At that time the *Sunbeam* frying pan was check-rated. The griddle and saucepan both scored higher in performance tests (pre-heat rate, ability to maintain temperature, accuracy of control settings, and consistency of performance) than any other brand of these utensils tested, and also would have been check-rated except that each had one or more exposed screws in the handle that, in use, became too hot to touch.



### VACUUM CLEANERS

224 (C: 389)

Forty-six tested—36 tank models, priced from \$34.95 plus shipping to \$209.85, and 10 uprights, priced from \$64.95 plus shipping to \$237.25. Tank types are best at above-the-floor cleaning, where good suction is essential; this was given considerable weight in CU's evaluations. Tanks also judged on convenience factors: maneuverability, ease of using attachments, portability, convenience of switches, ease of emptying. Some tank models had new electric-powered rotating brushes for rug cleaning, or else could be equipped with a *Preco Power Brush* (see VACUUM CLEANERS, POWER BRUSH FOR); thus "power-assisted," the best tanks showed improved rug-cleaning efficiency. The best uprights, however, still excel at rug-cleaning, which was CU's No. 1 test criterion for that type; six upright models were not fully tested because they cleaned rugs no better than the best of the tanks (see Ratings below). Report included discussion of vacuum-cleaner selling practices and methods (high points: list prices in regular retail outlets are a fiction; door-to-door salesmen still use the time-worn "hard-sell"), a special note to Kirby fans (explaining why CU consistently has given this make a relatively low ranking among uprights), and a revised order of ranking for the tested tank models with rug-cleaning factors eliminated. Except as noted, listed by types in order of estimated overall quality.

#### TANK CLEANERS

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** ✓RCA Whirlpool "Imperial Mark XII" E90, \$129.95 (\$149.95); ✓Sears "Lady Kenmore" Cat. No. 7006, \$119.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 2060, \$149.95 incl. shipping); ✓Eureka "Mobile-Aire" 1010, \$89.95 (1010-C, \$119); ✓Singer C2, \$89.95 (\$99.50); ✓Electrolux "Automatic" F, \$99.75. The following eight models listed alphabetically: Apex "Strato-Cleaner" 5502, \$109.95 (\$139.95); Hamilton Beach 35A, \$79.95 (through Eaton Stores only, \$99.50); Lewyt 105, \$89.95 (\$99.95); Lewyt 107, \$99.95 (\$119.95); Lewyt "Electronic Upright" 111, \$119.95 (\$139.95); Wards "Signature" Cat. No. 389, \$59.95 plus shipping; Westinghouse MC-4, \$74.95 (\$99.95); Wizard "Imperial" 2J3854, \$69.95. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIRLY GOOD:** Electrolux S, \$69.75; Filter Queen 500, \$169.50 (Filter Queen 450, \$169.50); Hamilton Beach "Deep Clean" 28, \$49.95 (\$73.50); Hoover "Constellation" 84, \$49.95 (Hoover 828, \$84.95); Hoover "Constellation" 87, \$89.95 (Hoover 871, \$119.95); Airway "Sanitizor" 88, \$149.50; RCA Whirlpool E60, \$39.95 (\$69.95); Royal 901, \$89.95 (Royal 290, \$94.50). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** General

Electric V11C7, \$79.95; General Electric V11C6, \$59.95; Wards Cat. No. 397, \$49.95 plus shipping; Universal 6910, \$59.95; Compact C4, \$209.85 (\$249.50 in Western Canada; \$199.90 in Eastern Canada without the carpet sweeper); Wizard "Deluxe" 2J3753, \$49.95; Singer E2, \$49.50 (\$59.50); Royal 975, \$89.95 (\$99.50); Eureka "Rotomatic" 805B, \$39.88 (Eureka 805BC, \$59.88). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR-TO-POOR:** Universal "Jet 99," \$79.95 (\$99.50); Cadillac "Quick-Vac" 888, \$69.95; Cadillac 800AS, \$69.95; Apex "Duno" 5539, \$39.95 (\$49.95); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 9620, \$34.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 9620, \$49.95 incl. shipping); Westinghouse LC-4, \$44.95.

#### UPRIGHT MODELS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Hoover "Convertible" 66, \$109.95 (Hoover 661, \$125.45); ✓Hoover "Convertible Special" 31, \$69.95; Eureka "Automatic" 260, \$89.95 (Eureka 260-C, \$129.95); Wards "Signature" Cat. No. 8458, \$66.95 plus shipping. **NOT FULLY TESTED** (in alphabetical order): Cadillac 125, \$69.95; Kirby 519, \$237.25 (Kirby 616, \$257.50); Royal 801, \$84.95 (\$89.50); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 9480, \$64.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears Cat. No. 9480, \$99.95 incl. shipping); Singer S4, \$99.95 (\$109.50); Universal 5740, \$79.95.

#### VACUUM CLEANERS, POWER BRUSH FOR

54

CU tested the *Preco Power Brush, Model VA 2* (\$19.95), an attachment with a revolving-brush nozzle for use with any tank-type vacuum cleaner. Its purpose: to increase rug-cleaning ability. CU found that it did this—in some cases markedly—with cleaners having relatively high suction, but not with low-suction models. Its performance was likely to suffer if the cleaner's dust bag filled up—meaning that the bag may have to be replaced more often than usual.

#### VAPORIZERS, ELECTRIC

30 (C: 149)

Eighteen models tested—15 electrolytic units (in which steam is produced by an electric current passing through two electrodes immersed in water, plain or with a little salt or borax added to increase conductivity), three boiler models (in which a simple heating element boils water)—priced from \$5.95 to \$19.95. All acceptable models were 5 pints or larger. Tested for speed of starting to steam, steam production in first half-hour, total effective steaming time. Also checked for safety: stability, if cord is tripped over, and shock hazard. Except as noted, listed in order of estimated overall quality by type and size. Large electrolytic units hold 1½ to 1½ gallons; medium and boiler-type, ½ to ½ gallon.

#### LARGE-SIZED ELECTROLYTIC UNITS

**ACCEPTABLE:** The first two models, approximately equal in quality, listed alphabetically: ✓Hunt 192, \$13.95; ✓Prak-T-Kal 800, \$12.50. *Hanksraft 206*, \$9.95 (\$14.95).

#### MEDIUM-SIZED ELECTROLYTIC UNITS

**ACCEPTABLE:** The first two models, approximately equal in quality, listed alphabetically: ✓Hunt 19, \$8.95; ✓Prak-T-Kal 400, \$6.95. The first five models following, approximately equal in quality, listed alphabetically: *Electreestem A58*, \$9.95; *Electreestem B1200*, \$7.95; *Kaz 250*, \$8.95 (\$11.95); *Rex-Ray X357*, \$9.95; *Superlectric 700*, \$5.95 (\$7.95). *Prak-T-Kal 650*, \$8.95; *DeVilbiss 145*, \$6.95 (\$8.50); *Hanksraft 202A*, \$6.95 (\$9.95); *Kaz 200*, \$6.95 (\$9.95). **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** *Spartan 10X*, \$9.85 (shock hazard).

#### BOILER-TYPE UNITS

**ACCEPTABLE:** General Electric V1, \$14.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** *Knapp-Monarch 34-512*, \$9.95 (very poor performance); *West Bend Vapor All 3520E*, \$19.95 (\$28.75) (shock hazard).

#### VIBRATORS, DO-IT-YOURSELF

211

Comment on the "rash" of do-it-yourself vibrating devices, from hand-held appliances up to elaborate beds, being marketed in the wake of the success of *Slenderella* and other "reducing" salons. Despite the claims for such vibrators, CU was positive they had no value in treating disease or promoting weight reduction. They might, however, serve an emotional need by offering superficial stimulation or relaxation; here, CU urged the prospective buyer to ponder whether such limited benefits are worth the prices being asked.

# W

## WASH-AND-WEAR BLOUSES, WOMEN'S

524

Thirty models tested—19 Dacron-cotton (priced from \$2.87 plus shipping to \$6.95), nine cotton (\$2.77 plus shipping to \$5), one Ban-Lon (\$7.98), one Taslan (\$10.98). Worn by 30 young women over a nine-week period, each model went through 18 wash-and-wear cycles; in the laboratory, each also was laundered in seven different ways and examined for appearance without ironing, as well as for tailoring workmanship, stitching failures, dimensional stability, colorfastness, and pilling. CU's main conclusions on fabrics: the tested Dacron-cottons were best in overall quality; five cottons were judged poor in wash-and-wearability, thus scarcely could be called wash-and-wear garments; the Ban-Lon and Taslan blouses proved disappointing at their higher prices. On laundering: regardless of washing method, machine-drying (using the wash-and-wear cycle) generally gave best results; if a blouse was to be drip-dried, hand-washing was judged easiest; an ironed blouse looked better after laundering than an unironed model of the same brand. Except as noted, listed in order of estimated overall quality within types.

### DACRON-COTTON

**ACCEPTABLE—EXCELLENT:** The following three models, approximately equal in quality, in order of price: ✓*Lady Manhattan*, \$5, **BEST BUY**; ✓*Haymaker*, \$6; ✓*Lady Hathaway*, \$6.95. **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** The following four models approximately equal in overall quality in order of increasing price: *Ship 'N Shore Travelmate*, \$3.98; *Shapely Classic*, \$4; *Adelaar*, \$4.98; *Harburt*, \$5.98. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** *Penney's Lady Towncraft*, \$2.98; *Donnkenny*, \$3.98; *Monocle*, \$3.98; *Macshore Classics*, \$3.98; *Avalon Classics*, \$3.98; *Judy Bond*, \$3.98; *Fritzi*, \$4; *Sears Kerrybrooke* #4100, \$2.87 plus shipping; *Aansworth, Ltd.*, \$3.98; *Ward's Suncraft Shirt* #1829, \$3.98 plus shipping; *Rhoda Lee*, \$3.98; *Majestic*, \$5.

### COTTON

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** *Lady Manhattan Mansmooth*, \$5; *Gabey Original*, \$4.95. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** *White Stag*, \$4.95; *Shapely Classic*, \$2.98. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR TO POOR:** *Sears Kerrybrooke* #4050, \$2.77 plus shipping; *Donnkenny*, \$2.98; *Macshore Classics*, \$2.98; *Brentshire* #1529, \$2.79 plus shipping; *Gordon Peters Slimline*, \$2.99.

### BAN-LON

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD TO FAIR:** *Stratford*, \$7.98.

### TASLAN

**ACCEPTABLE—GOOD TO FAIR:** *Matson*, \$10.98.

## WASH-AND-WEAR FABRICS

60

Early-season discussion of claims, actual developments, and prospects for wash-and-wear fabrics: men's suits, dress shirts, slacks and sportswear; women's wash dresses and blouses; children's clothes; household linens. Test reports on some of these items appeared later in the year (see above and below). Meanwhile, CU offered four general guides to take part of the gamble out of wash-and-wear shopping: 1) remember that synthetic fibers have wash-and-wear properties built in, while cottons achieve them largely through resin treatments; 2) before buying any wash-and-wear item, look to the label—the fuller and more specific its information, the better; 3) check wash-and-wear products for the qualities essential to satisfaction in all textiles—minimum shrinkage, colorfastness and, in clothing, tailoring and sewing designed to minimize puckering; 4) return all goods that fail to give satisfaction. Report included test results on two brands of no-iron sheets, *Pequot* and *Cannon*, washed and dried as per manufacturers' instructions, both brands impressed use-testers as superior to unironed conventional sheets, but less satisfactory in appearance than ironed sheets.

## WASH-AND-WEAR SUMMER SUITS, MEN'S

350

Seventeen models tested—eight Dacron-cotton, nine Dacron-Orlon—priced from \$28.50 plus shipping to \$59.50. All very lightweight (4-5 oz. per sq. yd.).

Tested for appearance after wearing and repeated washing and drip- or machine-drying, and after ironing or dry-cleaning; also for durability in laboratory tests. Among CU's conclusions: most suits looked better after machine-drying than after drip-drying; particularly with the lower-rated models tested, occasional dry-cleaning and pressing proved desirable to help smooth fabric, combat seam puckering, and remove launder-proof stains; as a group, the Dacron-Orlons clearly topped the Dacron-cottons in wash-and-wearability (though the latter might be more comfortable in very hot weather); overall, seam failures were much more common than in regular men's suits. *Listed in order of estimated overall quality within fabric types, with greatest emphasis on appearance after washing and machine-drying.*

#### DACRON-COTTON

**ACCEPTABLE:** Northcool Wash 'n Wear, \$39.95; Sears Fashion-Tailored Automatic Wash 'n Wear Cat. No. 31137, \$29.50 plus shipping; Deansgate, \$45; Penney's Travel-Cool, \$29.95; Palm Beach Wash'n Wear, \$39.95; Wards Barclay Hydro-Cool Wash 'n Wear Cat. No. MC 3702, \$28.50 plus shipping; Haspel Sir Perior Selfcaire, \$39.95; Clipper Craft Wash 'n Wear, \$39.95.

#### DACRON-ORLON

**ACCEPTABLE:** Botany 500, \$50; Michaels Stern Wash and Wear, \$49.95 and \$59.50; Clipper Craft Wash 'n Wear, \$49.95; Kentcraft, \$35; Lord Northcool Automatic, \$49.95; Haspel Sir Perior Selfcaire, \$39.95; Palm Beach Imperial Wash 'n Wear, \$49.95; Penney's Travel-Cool, \$29.95; Sears Fashion-Tailored Automatic Wash 'n Wear, \$33.50 plus shipping.

#### WASHER, FLOOR, HOOVER

626

CU tested the Hoover 3500 (\$80), apparently the first electric floor washer on the U.S. market that is intended for home use. Bearing some resemblance to an upright type vacuum cleaner, it has a removable container which is filled with hot water and detergent; this solution is dispersed through a nozzle as desired, and wet areas are scrubbed by moving the washer back and forth on the floor; dirty water is picked up by the machine and held in a removable plastic bag. CU had the Hoover use-tested in several homes and tested it in the laboratory. Consensus: it was convenient and easy to use (except in small areas), did a generally good washing job, was of overall good quality. The use-testers, however, did not feel it would save enough time and effort to justify its price—at least on their relatively small floor areas.

#### WASHING MACHINES, AUTOMATIC

56

Five models tested (all later versions of top-rated 1958 models), priced from \$369.95 to \$399.95. Tested for a broad range of performance characteristics—washing ability, sand disposal, linting, etc.—and for convenience features. Notable among the latter: controls to be set in advance for various combinations of temperature, speed, and cycle length; a device for adding laundry aids (detergent, bleach, etc.) to the wash automatically; greater provision than in 1958 models for handling wash-and-wear fabrics. *Listed in order of estimated overall quality.*

**ACCEPTABLE:** Frigidaire "Fabric Master Custom Imperial" WCI-59, \$399.95 (Model WCIC-59, \$469.95); Norge AW-442, \$369.95; Norge AWW-502, \$399.95; Norge AWD-502, \$399.95; Philco Bendix "Automatic" W298, \$379.95 (\$499.95).

#### WIRING, ELECTRICAL, HOME

66

For those unaware of how increased use of electrical appliances has strained the average home-wiring system, CU rounded up advice on estimating power needs, deciding whether rewiring is indicated, and, if so, how to go about dealing with contractors and financing the work. Report discussed three booklets called "required reading" for anyone contemplating changes in his house wiring (all obtainable from the National Wiring Bureau, 155 E. 44th St., NYC): *American Standard Requirements for Residential Wiring* (25¢), a complete guide to the planning of house wiring; *Getting the Most From Your Home's Electrical System* (15¢), which emphasizes estimating home-wiring needs; *Improving Your Home's Housepower* (10¢), useful for analyzing the capacity of your present system. Report also included tables to enable the householder to get a quick idea of how adequate his wiring is.

## SELECTED 1958 REPORTS

PORTABLE ELECTRIC DRILLS  
ELECTRIC IRONS  
PORTABLE JIG SAWS  
SOFT-SIDE LUGGAGE  
SEMI-GLOSS PAINTS  
RUGS AND CARPETS  
SHOTGUNS  
SKIING EQUIPMENT  
SPINNING RODS AND REELS  
INDOOR TV ANTENNAS  
AUTOMATIC TOASTERS  
MASTER-HEAT-CONTROL UTENSILS

The reports summarized on this and following pages were published in **Consumer Reports** during 1958. Other reports from that year also have more or less currency, but the ones selected were considered to be of interest to the largest number of consumers. No attempt has been made to establish the currency of specific Ratings or the prices shown; in percentage terms, more of these models have changed since first publication than is true of the 1959 reports. Nonetheless, the major portion of every summary here—whether in the general buying guidance offered or in the individual product Ratings—still should be of value.

Additional points noted in the main introduction to the **Summary and Index** apply here as well, with two exceptions. Page numbers are not given for 1958 reports; instead, each is identified by month of publication during that year. And, because of the much smaller number of 1958 reports, they are not cross-indexed. Beyond that, CU would repeat its recommendation that, where possible, the reader make the effort of referring to the original report for fuller information.

### DRILLS, ELECTRIC, PORTABLE QUARTER-INCH

JANUARY 1958

Thirty models tested, priced from \$14.88 (plus shipping) to \$39.77 (plus shipping). CU used a power test to obtain the drills' output in watts when they were loaded so as to produce an 85°C rise above room temperature in the motor windings; though all acceptable drills were judged satisfactory for light work, those with an output of 100 or more watts were found better suited for heavier jobs. Drills also were scored on convenience factors—weight, ease of switch and switch-lock operation, ease of brush inspection and replacement, chuck offset, cord length, handle shape, balance, and housing temperature. Listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Milwaukee, Model S-114, \$37.50; ✓Sears Craftsman, Cat. No. 796, \$39.77 plus shipping; ✓Wards Power-Kraft Cat. No. 9301, \$27.50 plus shipping  
**BEST BUY:** ✓Sears Craftsman Cat. No. 770, \$27.88 plus shipping, **BEST BUY:** ✓Milwaukee, Model 250, \$32.50; Skil Model 134, \$34.50; Pet Model No. 1440 G, \$27.50; Black & Decker Utility Cat. No. U-3 Type 3, \$29.95; Dormeyer Model No. 5-2202, \$29.95; Porter-Cable Model 107, \$33.50; Stanley Type 24A Model A, \$33; Mail Model 149B, \$28.50; Dormeyer Model No. 5-2002, \$19.95; Skil Model 549, Type 5, \$29.95;



Cummins Model 305, \$29.95; Millers Falls Cat. No. 1814, Model A, \$27.50; Shopmate Model 740-LG, \$22.88; Wards Power-Kraft Cat. No. 9300L, \$16.95 plus shipping; Sunbeam Drillmaster, Model No. 70-2, \$29.95; Sioux Cat. No. 1475, \$28.50; Cummins Model 304, \$24.95; Stanley Type H41, Model A, \$27.95; Sioux Cat. No. RC-1885-A, \$29.95; Black & Decker Home-Utility Cat. No. U-301 Type 1, \$17.06; Thor Speedrill Type 201-J, \$19.95; Skil Model 503, Type 1, \$20.66; Sears Craftsman Cat. No. 787, \$14.88 plus shipping; Shopmate Model No. 77LH, \$15.88. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Porter Cable Model No. 137, \$26.95 (grease seepage); Thor Speedrill, Model 20, \$16.25 (all three samples tested were defective).

## IRONS, ELECTRIC, STEAM AND DRY

MARCH 1958

Thirty-three models tested—19 steam-dry, 11 dry, two steam-dry travel, one spray-steam-dry—priced from \$6.27 (plus shipping) to \$19.95. All were judged on performance, convenience, laboratory measurements. Steam irons outsell dry by nearly three to one, partly because the steam type can iron dry as well—though dry irons cost less, generally are less bulky, generally last longer. In the steam category, CU preferred drip type to boiler. Note: The General Electric spray-steam-dry iron performed well as a drip-type steam iron, also was able to spray water on fabric in front of it. Listed in order of estimated overall quality within types.

### DRY IRONS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓General Electric 16F43, \$9.95; ✓Mary Proctor Champion 994, \$10.95; ✓General Electric 17F34, \$9.95; ✓Dominion 1011-B, \$9.95; ✓Sunbeam Ironmaster A11, \$11.95; Toastmaster 4A4, \$11.95; Westinghouse Adjust-O-Matic ID5131, \$13.95; Wards Cat. No. 2609, \$6.27 plus shipping; American Beauty 33AB, \$13.60; Universal 1229, \$9.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Knapp Monarch 19-507-B, \$8.95 (relatively poor performance).

### DRIP-TYPE STEAM IRONS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓General Electric 16F60, \$16.95; ✓Mary Proctor 993, \$16.95; ✓Mary Proctor 996, \$16.95; ✓Wards Steam'N Dry, Cat. No. 2629, \$12.95 plus shipping; ✓Sunbeam Steam Ironmaster S-4A, \$17.95; ✓Knapp Monarch 20-550, \$15.95; Hoover Stainless 4330, \$19.95; Hoover Aluminum 4220, \$17.95; Universal 1802, \$16.95; Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6277, \$12.50 plus shipping; Westinghouse Adjust-O-Matic IS5214, \$17.95; Toastmaster 4B2, \$16.95; Manning-Bowman 5M3, \$15.95; American Beauty 81AB, \$14.95.

### BOILER-TYPE STEAM IRONS

**ACCEPTABLE:** Steam-O-Matic 512, \$17.95; Casco N4, \$17.95; Dominion 1055, \$17.95; Dominion 1070, \$15.95; Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6214, \$8.95 plus shipping.

### STEAM TRAVEL IRONS

**ACCEPTABLE:** General Electric 17F29, \$11.95; Universal D1675, \$12.95.

### SPRAY-STEAM-DRY IRON

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓General Electric 17F61, \$19.95.

## JIG SAWS, ELECTRIC, PORTABLE

NOVEMBER 1958

Twenty-four models tested, priced from \$24.95 to \$62.50. Tests were made for performance (speed at cutting various thicknesses of wood, effectiveness in starting blind cuts, ability to cut metal and wallboard), convenience, noise, safety, and other factors. Various attachments also were tested. Among CU's conclusions: this type of saw was a good choice for the home handyman because of its lightness and compactness—but it was not the complete answer to all sawing problems. Listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Skil "Builder's Line Skilsaw" 514, \$47.50 (\$59.95); ✓Sears Craftsman "100" Cat. No. 2798, \$39.95 plus shipping; Stanley H75-A, \$54.50 (Model H75, \$64.50); Wards "Power-Kraft" Cat. No. 8933, \$41.95 plus shipping; Millers Falls "Dyna-Mite" 480, \$39.95 (\$47.95); Porter-Cable 152, \$54.95 (\$65); Lesto GEB4, \$62.50 (\$49.50); Thor "Speedsaw" 440, \$29.95 (\$34.95); Thor "Speedsaw" 441, \$39.95 (\$47.50); Speedway 17, \$25 (\$28.95); Sunbeam 166, \$55 (\$59.95); Sunbeam 76, \$45 (\$46.50); Black & Decker U10, \$44.50 (\$65); Sears Craftsman Cat. No. 2794, \$26.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears 2794, \$34.95 plus shipping); Shopmate 2100, \$29.95 (\$34.88); Wards "Power-Kraft" Cat. No. 8930, \$24.95 plus shipping; Wen 505, \$29.95 (\$39.95); Forsberg "Whiz-Saw" 1, \$55; Forsberg "Whiz-Saw" 10, \$39.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Dalton D500, \$44.95; Dalton D600, \$29.95 (both poor per-



formance and defective samples); Dormeyer 5-8000, \$39.95 (\$49.95); Electro E530, \$34.95 (\$34.95) (both lacked sawdust blower); Forsberg "G-Whiz" "G," \$24.95 (potential shock hazard and poor performance).

## LUGGAGE, SOFT-SIDE

JANUARY 1958

Twenty-seven models judged, priced from \$11.45 (plus shipping) to \$65.50. These bags, unlike conventional rigid luggage, consist of a light frame covered with any of a variety of materials. They come in two types. One has conventional handles, hinges, and locks, and is styled to simulate rigid luggage; the other is admittedly "soft" and opens by a zipper extending around three sides of the case. CU tested handle durability, resistance to impact and puncture, resistance to surface and color changes in weathering, and resistance to abrasion. Among CU's conclusions: soft-side luggage suffered less from blows than the rigid type; soft-side frames were sturdier in the zipper-closed models than the rigid-simulating ones; few valid utilitarian reasons remained for buying luggage of the rigid type. Listed in order of estimated overall quality.

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Lark Kalistron Model 570, \$39.95; ✓Lark Vitalon Model 540, \$36.50; ✓Leed's Light Zip Model LZT, \$14.95, **BEST BUY;** ✓Sears Cat. No. 9357 in vinyl-coated fabric, \$11.95 plus shipping, **BEST BUY;** ✓Atlantic Grasshopper Model GHR, \$13, **BEST BUY;** Crescent Flyte 4-Some Model JN, \$13.95; Crescent Flyte 4-Some Model JH, \$13.95; Crescent Flyte 4-Some Model JP, \$13.95; Leed's Light Zip Model LZR, \$12.95; Atlantic Grasshopper Model GHM, \$15; Atlantic Grasshopper Model GHV, \$15; Sears Cat. No. 9357 with rayon covering, \$11.95 plus shipping; Lark Fabrilite Model 500, \$31; Atlantic Grasshopper Model GHN, \$15; Daisy Model 209, \$35.95; Olympic Model 22 Twosuit, \$44.50; Amelia Earhart Stripes of Elegance Model 400 S/S "Wall Streeter" 2 Suit, \$49.95; Oshkosh Chief Waylite Model 17-1024 Two suit, \$65.50; Winglite Model 59, \$52.50; Oshkosh Waylite No. 97 Brown Canvas Model 17-9724 Two Suit, \$47.50; Skyway Featherweight Model 154, \$25; Phantom Weight Model 30, \$22.95; Platt Slimline Aiross Model 24-4032, \$32.50; Belber Zip Lite Model 26 LP 1260, \$18.95; Wards Cat. No. 8516, \$11.45 plus shipping; Belber Zip Lite Model 26LNY 1460, \$21.95; Wards Cat. No. 8516, \$11.45 plus shipping.

## PAINTS, SEMI-GLOSS

JULY 1958

Twelve brands tested, priced from \$4.65 (plus shipping) to \$9.50 per gallon. Tested with both brush and roller for ease of application and good results; also compared for hiding power, drying time, degree of gloss, resistance to water spotting, ease of cleaning, resistance to scrubbing, other qualities. Among CU's conclusions: Although there was wide variation among brands, all pinks, yellows, and whites were relatively low in hiding power; some dried glossier than others, but all were far less shiny than high-gloss enamel; all required a properly primed surface for best results; roller application generally produced a thinner film (with less hiding power) than brushing. Listed in order of estimated overall quality for interior use. Prices are list 1 gallon in the New York City area.

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Moore's New Satin Impervo, \$6.50, **BEST BUY.** **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Sherwin-Williams Kem-Glo, \$9.49; Du Pont Duco, \$9.50; Sears Master Mixed Sero-Glo, \$7.19 plus shipping; Devco One-Coat Velour, \$7.55 and \$8.35, depending on color; Moore's Alkyd Dulamel, \$5.45; Glidden Spred Lustre, \$7.95; Pittsburgh Satinhide, \$8.82; National Lead Dutch Boy, \$6.95. **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Wards Super One-Coat, \$4.89 plus shipping; Sears Master-Mixed Siliconized, \$4.65 plus shipping; National Gypsum Gold Bond Latex, \$7.50.

## Back copies

Issues of CONSUMER REPORTS are 50¢ each—except for the enlarged Buying Guide Issues, December 1958 and December 1959, which sell for 60¢ each. To order back copies, write to Back Issue Dept., Consumers Union, 256 Washington Street, Mount Vernon, N.Y.

## RUGS AND CARPETS

NOVEMBER 1958

Since postwar technological development has made buying rugs and carpets a guessing game for many customers, CU reviewed the current picture. Highlights: The three key factors in choosing a carpet are fiber content, pile density and height, and workmanship; type of weave no longer is important, and even the new, less expensive "tufted" carpet can be as satisfactory as the woven type. Among fibers, only carpet wools rated well in all respects at the time of CU's report; cotton and synthetics had various drawbacks. Carpet fiber should do well on all these counts: resilience (ability to spring back after crushing), resistance to wear and soil, ease of cleaning, and resistance to pilling. CU recommended that for high-traffic areas (living room, stairs, hallways), carpets should be 100 per cent wool or carpet nylon, or a blend of the two with at least 25 per cent nylon. Report noted that there is no way to judge a carpet's fiber content and quality by looking at it; you must trust the label, if present, for content and your dealer for fiber quality. On pile density and height, you can judge by eye: look for the greatest possible amount of fiber per square inch. On workmanship, look at the carpet's back for straight yarns running at right angles—or for good anchorage of the tufts. Report also discussed wall-to-wall vs. room-size carpeting, surface texture, color and design, padding, and retail pricing.

## SHOTGUNS

OCTOBER 1958

Fourteen models tested, all 12 gauge—eight auto-loaders (priced from \$111 to \$144.75) and six pump guns (priced from \$52.95 to \$104.95), all with 28-inch barrels. All guns fired at least 50 rounds each, both standard and maximum loads, and both shot and rifled slugs. No jams or malfunctions occurred. Other tests covered ease of loading and other performance functions, point-of-impact tests at 30 yards, speed of fire, ease of sighting and pointing, stock fit, and safety devices. CU's consultants pointed out that the Ratings below also would apply to guns with the same basic design available in other gauges and/or barrel lengths. Listed by types; within types, by groups in order of estimated overall quality; within groups, in order of increasing U.S. price.

### AUTO-LOADERS

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Remington Sportsman 48, \$122.95 (\$135.95); ✓Browning Double Automatic (standard), \$127.75 (\$129.75); ✓Winchester 50, \$134.45 (\$147.75); ✓Remington Sportsman 58, \$136.45 (\$147.75); ✓Remington Sportsman 58, \$136.45 (\$149.95). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Browning Automatic (standard), \$134.75 (\$139.50); Browning Automatic Light Twelve, \$144.75 (\$165). **ACCEPTABLE—FAIR:** Savage 755A, \$111 (\$118); Savage 775A, \$117 (\$125).

### PUMP GUNS

**ACCEPTABLE—VERY GOOD:** ✓Remington Wingmaster 870, \$85.95 (\$94.95); ✓Ithaca Featherlight 37, \$94.95 (\$99.95); ✓Winchester 12, \$104.95 (\$115.35). **ACCEPTABLE—GOOD:** Sears J. C. Higgins 20, Cat. No. 01, \$53.50 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears, \$64.95 plus shipping) **BEST BUY:** Stevens Model 77C, \$67.50 (\$71.85). **ACCEPTABLE—POOR:** Mossberg Model 200KA, \$52.95 (\$55.85).

## SKIING EQUIPMENT FOR THE BEGINNER

DECEMBER 1958

General buying guidance for the neophyte. Key item of equipment: proper boots (about \$30 and up). Also essential: good bindings (about \$15 for popular models), good skis (about \$35 to \$50), ski poles (about \$8 for popular models). Clothes matter less at the start, but for warmth and comfort CU's consultants recommended tapered ski pants (about \$15 up), a nylon parka (about \$10 to \$15), two layers of underwear (fishnet and lightweight longjohns), two pairs of socks (cotton and wool). Other possible expenses: transportation, accommodations, lessons, ski-tow tickets, additional clothing (sweater, gloves, perhaps sun goggles and headgear). In view of the costs involved, CU made two recommendations to beginners: 1) consider renting equipment until you are sure you want to invest in your own; 2) when you do set out to buy, take a veteran skier with you. Sources for skiing information also were listed in the report.

## SPINNING RODS AND REELS

JUNE 1958

Twenty-nine rods (priced from \$8.45, plus shipping, to \$50) and 17 bottom-mounted reels (\$14.95 to \$32.50) tested. All were designed for fresh-water use. All rods were hollow glass fiber (best for spinning, in CU's opinion). Rods first were grouped in the two trade categories, light and medium action, and

tested with suitable weights and lines; as a result, CU classified them as light, light-to-medium, medium, and wide-range action. Judgments of casting qualities were made on distance (all rods did well) and accuracy (wide variations noted). Other test factors included tip action, rod taper, guides, grip, and reel seat. Reels were tested with appropriate line; criteria included casting qualities, drag adjustment, method of rewinding, and ease of changing spools. Rods listed in order of estimated overall quality within classifications established by CU's tests; reels listed in order of estimated overall quality.

#### LIGHT-ACTION RODS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Conolon "Air Flite" #6311-MB, \$16.95; ✓Actionrod Model 2170, \$11.95; ✓Phillipson The Chieftain TC64, \$14.75; ✓Mitchell Companion 475NL, \$23.75; ✓Sears J. C. Higgins Cat. No. 3069, \$8.45 plus shipping; ✓Heddon Sterling Pal #124-6½"L, \$12.95; ✓Pflueger No. R2166, \$14.95; ✓Sila-Flex Perfection Model 11, \$33.50; ✓Actionrod Model 4270, \$35; Airex Air-Glass No. 145, \$12.95; H-I Mohawk Berkshire #1423, \$14; Shakespeare Wonderod Model 1410L, \$14.95.

#### LIGHT-TO-MEDIUM-ACTION RODS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓South Bend No. 4169-7", \$9.95; ✓Montague Clear Lake #2284, \$12.95; ✓Wright & McGill "Blue Water" BWL-7, \$16.50; ✓Wright & McGill "Holiday" B-6½S, \$17.50; True Temper Lagoon No. 2023, \$14.95.

#### MEDIUM-ACTION RODS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Mitchell Companion 475LM, \$24.95; ✓Heddon Pioneer Pal #160-7"M, \$27.95; ✓Conolon "Air Flite" 6327-MB, \$16.95; ✓Phillipson Stream Knight SK70, \$16.95; ✓Airex Air-Glass No. 157, \$19.95; ✓South Bend No. 4569-7", \$23.95; H-I Mohawk No. 1426-76, \$15.75; Sears J. C. Higgins Cat. No. 03034, \$15.77 plus shipping; Shakespeare Wonderod Model 1463M, \$18.95; Pflueger No. R2770, \$22.95; True Temper Dynaspin 2034, \$22.95.

#### WIDE-RANGE-ACTION ROD

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Sila-Flex Magnum Model PT-10, \$50.

#### SPINNING REELS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Mitchell 300, \$32.50; ✓Sears J. C. Higgins 500 Cat. No. 3146, \$15.44 plus shipping; ✓Mitchell Cap No. 304, \$17.95; ✓Langley Spin Deluxe Model 830, \$24.50; ✓Pflueger Pelican No. 1020, \$24.95; ✓Langley Spinlite Special Model 852B, \$27.50; ✓Airex Larchmont Model 3 Cat. No. 312, \$29.95; H-I Spin Deluxe Model B1903, \$16.50; Ocean City 300, \$19.95; Garcia ABU No. 310, \$23.95; Bronson Jet Model 500, \$14.95; Martin Model 27, \$14.95; Compac Olympic No. 81, \$15; Zebco Model 44, \$19.50; Heddon Spin Pal No. 260, \$25; South Bend Spin 22, \$19.95; Shakespeare No. 1786, \$24.95.

#### TELEVISION ANTENNAS, INDOOR

OCTOBER 1958

Sixteen models tested, priced from \$3.49 (plus shipping) to \$19.95; all were bought in New York City area. Test instruments showed some differences but, in most cases, trained observers could see little difference in the resulting TV pictures. CU's conclusions: under favorable conditions, indoor antennas do work; except for poor off-beat designs, one generally worked as well as another. Note: List prices were almost meaningless; CU's shoppers bought a \$14.95 one for \$6.95, a \$9.95 one for 79¢. Listed in groups on the basis of judgments of adequate performance on all VHF channels, combined with convenience of space requirements; and, within groups, alphabetically. Prices are list.

**ACCEPTABLE—GROUP 1:** Amphenol VI-FI, \$11.95; Channel Master 3906 "Super Showman," \$18.85. **ACCEPTABLE—GROUP 2:** Channel Master 3710 "Top-Hatter," \$9.95; JFD Magic Genie MG350, \$17.95; Rembrandt Embassy, \$19.95; Rembrandt Dual Control, \$16.95; RMS Focus F-38K, \$14.95; Silvertone 6867, \$3.49 plus shipping; Snyder Directronic Picasso 8D, \$12.95; Snyder Push Button Directronic 5D, \$9.95; Telco A-9263, \$9.95; World Wide, \$15.95. **ACCEPTABLE—GROUP 3:** Dynamic Filter-Tenna DB500, \$18.95; Radion Starfire 1500, \$9.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE** (design flaws): Channel King, \$12.95; Telco Hide A-Way A8146, \$10.95.

#### TOASTERS, ELECTRIC, AUTOMATIC

DECEMBER 1958

Twenty-two models tested—18 two-slice toasters (priced from \$8.88 plus shipping to \$29.95) and four three- and four-slice toasters (\$24.95 to \$34.95). All were tested for more than 40 performance, convenience, and safety factors. Each was used, under a variety of conditions, to toast dozens of slices of bread; all models were examined for construction and workmanship, and the high-

rated ones were put through limited endurance runs. Listed in order of estimated overall quality.

#### TWO-SLICE TOASTERS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Sunbeam "Radiant Control" T-35, \$29.95 (\$39.50); Toastmaster "Super Deluxe Powermatic" 1B16, \$29.95 (\$38.95); Hamilton Beach 2T, \$19.95 (\$26.75); Knapp-Monarch 22-503, \$18.95 (\$24.95); Wards Cat. No. 2297, \$12.95 plus shipping; General Electric 18T92, \$19.95; Westinghouse TO-5422-Y, \$21.95 (TP-22M, \$25.95); Toastmaster 1B24, \$18.95 (1B14, \$28.95); Toastmaster 1B21, \$16.95 (\$26.50); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6341, \$11.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears 6130, \$19.95 incl. shipping). **CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTABLE** (potential shock hazard because of live bread-temperature-sensing device; Acceptable only if grounded): Dormeyer 6303, \$19.95 (\$29.95); Proctor "Masterpiece" 20000, \$22.95 (20009, \$29.95); Proctor "Custom" X1490, \$14.95 (1492E, \$19.95); Proctor "Color Minder" 1484D, \$17.95; Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6300, \$12.95 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears 6121, \$18.95 incl. shipping); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6320, \$8.88 plus shipping (Simpsons-Sears 6108, \$14.95 incl. shipping); Universal C2855, \$19.95. Note: the Dominion 1135, \$15.95 (\$24.95), originally rated Not Acceptable because of control flaws, was subsequently re-tested and found to rank near the top of this group.

#### THREE- AND FOUR-SLICE TOASTERS

**ACCEPTABLE:** Toastmaster 1C5, \$29.95; Toastmaster "Super Deluxe Powermatic" 1C4, \$34.95; Toastswell 148, \$24.95 (\$39.95). Note: the Dominion 1140, \$24.95, originally rated Not Acceptable because of control flaws, was subsequently re-tested and found to rank near the top of this group.

#### UTENSILS, MASTER-HEAT-CONTROL

DECEMBER 1958

Thirty-two models tested—13 frying pans (priced from \$9.44 plus shipping to \$23.95), 11 griddles (\$11.95 plus shipping to \$27.95), eight saucepans (\$9.50 plus shipping to \$18.95). All were designed for use as members of utensil "families," in which various utensils from the same manufacturer are operated (one at a time) by a single thermostatic probe-type control (usually sold separately, at about \$5 to \$8); with probe removed, all are immersible in water. CU tested every model for preheat rate, ability to maintain temperature, accuracy of control settings, and consistency of performance; each model then received further tests appropriate to its type. Finally, all samples were judged for convenience, durability, and safety. (See also summary of supplementary 1959 report under same heading on page 55.) Listed by type of utensil; within types, except as noted, in order of estimated overall quality. Except as noted, prices do not include control or, except for saucepans, cover.

#### FRYING PANS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Farberware 310, \$23.95 (\$30.75); ✓Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6523, \$16.95 plus shipping; ✓Sunbeam RL, \$15.95 incl. cover. Five models were judged of approximately equal overall quality and listed in alphabetical order: Farberware 280, \$14.95 (\$18.95); Presto SS-32A, \$12.95 (\$15.95); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6505, \$9.44 plus shipping; West Bend 3590E, \$16.95 incl. cover (\$30.95 incl. cover); Westinghouse F-28, \$14.95. Two models were judged relatively poor in overall quality and listed alphabetically: Mirromatic 271M, \$14.45 incl. cover; Universal 8240, \$15.95. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Dormeyer Fri-Way 20, \$22.95 including control (\$29.95) (excessive current leakage); General Electric 16C110, \$18.95 (shock hazard).

#### GRIDDLES

**ACCEPTABLE:** First five models following, judged approximately equal in overall quality, listed alphabetically. Farberware 260, \$25.95 (\$33.35); Presto SG-33, \$16.95 (\$19.95); Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6507, \$11.95 plus shipping; Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6525, \$19.50 plus shipping; Westinghouse G-18, \$19.95. Knapp-Monarch "Redi-Fry" 15-555, \$27.95 including control and cover; Universal 8280, \$16.95 (\$18); West Bend 3585E, \$21.95 (\$39.50). **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Dormeyer 9900, \$24.95 including control (\$34.95) (shock hazard); Dormeyer 9900R1, \$24.95 including control (shock hazard).

#### SAUCEPANS

**ACCEPTABLE:** ✓Farberware 330, \$18.95 (\$24.50); ✓Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6526, \$14.95 plus shipping; West Bend 3583E, \$12.95 (\$18.50); Westinghouse S-28, \$16.95; Presto SP-38, \$13.95; Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6508, \$9.50 plus shipping; Universal 8260, \$14.95 (\$16). **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** GE 16S40, \$18.95 (shock hazard).

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